# OLAVE BADEN POWELL

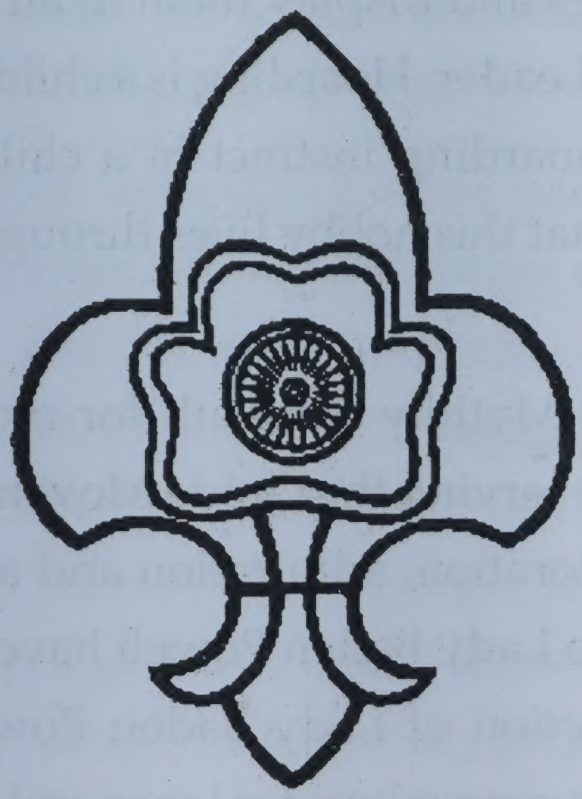
# A Great Lady
# Our Great Inspiration

Olave Baden-Powell
World Chief Guide.

OLAVE BADEN POWELL

# A GREAT LADY

# OUR GREAT INSPIRATION



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SHIVAJINAGAR LOCAL ASSOCIATION

Bangalore North District

THE BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES, Karnataka

# THE BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES

*T.S. Lucas*

STATE COMMISSIONER (S)
KARNATAKA

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## FOREWORD

Mrs. Mythily Sampath, the compiler of this precious collection, would have recollected her Brownie days as she was editing this book, remembering her efforts to collect things and display them in an organized way with the guidance of her Brownie Leader. Hoarding is a childhood fancy. The founder of Scouting turned the hoarding instinct in a child as a hobby (collecting things). It is no wonder that this hobby lives through the life of Mrs. Mythily Sampath.

I have known Mrs. Mythily Sampath for more than forty years as a Guide Leader and trainer serving the Guide Movement in various positions. Her respect, affection, adoration, admiration and a sense of appreciation to the Founder's wife, Olave Lady Baden Powell have rightly motivated her to accumulate a large collection of Lady Baden Powell's writings, messages and photos from various sources, besides logos and posters. He ardent desire to exhibit her collection and make it useful for many others resulted in this humble venture of Shivajinagar Local Association, The Bharat Scouts and Guides, Bangalore North District, in bringing out this compilation in a book form.

This is not a book of history, nor of philosophy, nor of ethics but in essence it is all those. It reads like a personal diary resplendently rich in reminiscence providing the reader a travel in a 'Magic Carpet' as if in a 'Time Machine'. I am sure that this book will rightfully go into the array of guide and scout books as a 'Book of all time'. Also it is a book for all people, especially, the young.

For a sample: One of her reminiscences is during her visit to Panama in 1959, 47 years after her first visit to Panama with her dear 'Robin' in 1912 during her courtship.

Among many compliments and tributes received by her, one Guider writes 'And her letters! They are gems, no one writes just like her, when you realize the thousands of people she knows and meets and yet when you get a letter, it is so personal and so full of life and with such depth too....'

This books is one of the examples of documentation. It augurs well that the publication of this book is in 2011, the centenary year of Guiding in India and the world and is fit to be recommended to be stocked in every Guide and Scout headquarters, camps and centres around the world, and to be in the hands of every Guider and Scouter.

I thank Mrs. Mythily Sampath, for her painstaking efforts and her ready cooperation at all stages of the publication of the book. On behalf of the members of the executive I express our gratitude to Sri. K.B.Shanmukhappa, the State Chief Commissioner, Smt.Shantha Acharya, the State Commissioner [G], Sri.M.A.Khalid, the State Secretary and Miss Rathnanjali Nicodemus, President, Shivajinagar Local Association for their messages. The suggestions given by Miss. P. Saroja, Former Director of The Bharat Scouts and Guides, NHQ, at every step of the Publication of the book is noteworthy. I also thank all the Office Bearers, especially Miss.Rathnajali Nicodemus, Mrs.B.Revathy, L.T [B], District Training Commissioner [G] BND, and Miss.Krupa Vijai, Secretary, Shivajinagar Local Association for having put a lot of their time and effort in this task. The Printers M/s. RIO Creations, Malleswaram, stand as a model in Publisher-Printer relationship.

**[ T.S.LUCAS ]**
**Chairman, Executive Committee**
**Shivajinagar Local Association**

**Bangalore**
**18.11.2011**

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**THE BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES, KARNATAKA**

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*Ref. No.: BSG/SHQ/ 1063/2011-12*

**DATE : 09-11-2011**

# MESSAGE OF GOOD WISHES

Mrs. Olave Lady Baden Powel, who served this World Wide Youth Movement as World Chief Guide is a person to be remembered and emulated by all Volunteers and other Leaders who serve and dedicate themselves for the service of young people all over the world for her Concern – Commitment and Benevolent attitude and her Vision for Youth.

Married to Lord Baden Powell, who was 32 years elder to her – she stood by him all through his Adventurous Life and gave him Moral support and Encouragement to achieve all his Dreams and Vision to become a reality.

Smt. Mythili Sampath, Former Leader Trainer (G), Former Assistant Stage Commissioner (G), Former Member of State and National Council has actively served the movement in Karnataka State as a Professional Leader and Subsequently as a Volunteer for a very long period has through this comprehensive Book on Mrs. Olave Baden Powell has made earnest and sincere efforts to place before the present youth different facets of Life and Achievements of the distinguished Lady who served the Movement as "World Chief Guide" of the Movement till her last breath.

She visited India during year 1921 and subsequently she came to India on Four further occasion's and participated in the Third All India Jamboree held at Bangalore City during the year 1960. Many senior members of the State – remember with pride having seen/met this humble and sincere World Chief Guide, during her visit to Bangalore and have excellent memories to rejoice.

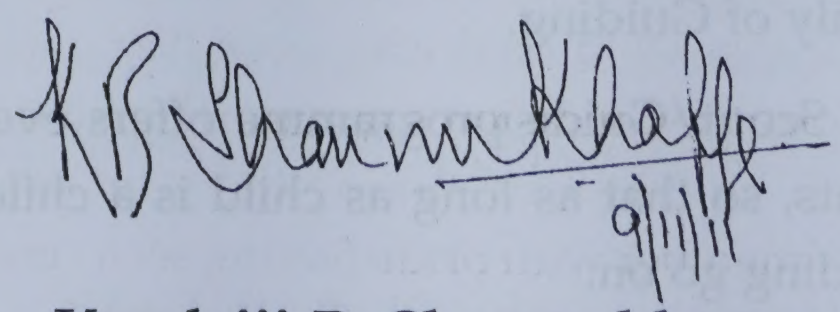
This Books is a honest attempt to Present her varied potentialities of Life which enables the reader to understand her deep concern and generocity in spreading the message of the movement to different sections of the society all over the world.

On behalf of Bharat Scouts and Guides, Karnataka, I convey my appreciation for the sincere efforts made by Smt Mythili Sampath in compiling and presenting to the reader the noble Principles and Aims of the Scout/Guide Movement and under the dynamic leadership of Mrs. Olave Lady Baden Powell and enabling Shivajinagar Local Association, Bangalore to Publish this Book for the benefit of all those who love, respect and adore this Movement with respect and reverence.

I congratulate all Office-bearers of Shivajinagar Local Association for their efforts in publishing this Book which enables the Youth and other Volunteers working for the movement to understand in depth the Perception Strength and Personality of Mrs. Olave Lady Baden Powell.

Let more number of young Boys and Girls of to-day read this Book and assimilate the role played by Lord Baden Powell and Mrs. Olave Lady Baden Powell in building and strengthening the Scout/Guide Movement with Excellent Aims and Objects, which instills Self confidence and Inner Strength to reach the GOALS set before them and face challenges of Life with ease and dignity.

The Shivajinagar Local Association which has already Published Books on "Stephenson Smyth Baden Powell" [Impeesa] and Olave Lady Baden Powell [The Mother of Millions] is having good rapport of inter – personal relationship and bondage in its functioning for the growth and development of the activities of the Movement in their Area of Operation. Wishing the Local Association God Speed and Good Luck in their efforts to strengthen the Movement.



**Kondajji B. Shanmukhappa**
State Chief Commissioner

# THE BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES

**Mrs. Shantha Acharya**
STATE COMMISSIONER (G)
KARNATAKA

OFFICE State Head Quarters, Kondajji Basappa Road, Fort, Bangalore-560 002. Phone : 26708776


## MESSAGE

Starting from 10th April, 2010, the guides all over the world celebrate the centenary of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and continue their activities in 2011 and 2012. The great man Lord Baden Powell, with his vision started a personality development and service oriented organization. Olave Lady Baden Powell, the Mother of Millions, as she was fondly called, joined hands with her husband in guiding this organization and the Guide Movement all over the world.

Lady Baden Powell as World Chief Guide, continued the work for 36 years after the death of her husband. She travelled nearly 5 lakh miles taking 653 flights, just for the guide mission of channeling the wealth of goodwill in the minds of the young ones towards helping and serving others. She visited India in 1921, 1937, 1960, 1966 and 1968.

On this auspicious centenary celebrations, according to the theme of the World Organization of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts being **'Plant, Grow and Share'**, let us bring more girls into guiding with the aim to grow more and share our experiences. At this point it will not be out of place to ponder on some of Lady Baden Powell's words.

1. I belong to you, you belong to me, we all belong together in this vast family of Guiding.
2. The Scout/Guide programme offers everything the child needs and wants, so that as long as child is a child, so long will Scouting and Guiding go on.
3. Geography may seem a very dull subject at school but it becomes a really exciting one when you are planning to travel from place to place.

4. God, give me work till my life shall end; God give me life till my work is done.

Guiding has created its own base and rightfully established itself at the global level and every Girl Guide should be proud of it. And we feel honoured and privileged to be a part of this association.

The young generation of scouts and guides certainly play a big role in making our nation in this period of time 'The Golden Era' in Indian History, each one playing his/her role in this attempt. Each one of the Scout and Guide should lay a brick in building India, our beloved motherland into a super power of the 21st century.

As the State Commissioner of Guides, Karnataka, I call upon all the young people to join this noble movement in order to construct a peaceful and meaningful society for the future generation.

**Mrs. Shantha Acharya**
**State Commissioner (G)**
**The Bharat Scouts and Guides, Karnataka**

**Bangalore**
**18.11.2011**

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# THE BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES, KARNATAKA

M.A. KHALID
CONSULTANT
ASIA PACIFIC REGIONAL SCOUT COMMITTEE
& STATE SECRETARY, BS&G, KARNATAKA

STATE HEADQUARTERS
PROF. SIVASHANKAR CIRCLE
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FORT, BANGALORE-560 002

*Ref. No.: BSG/SHQ/*

**DATE : 15-11-2011**

## MESSAGE

In 1909, several girls demanded a place for girls at the Crystal Palace Boy Scout Rally. They were the very first advocates of the Girl Guides Movement – speaking out and challenging the norms and gender conventions of the time. To honour the history, World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts [WAGGS] are celebrating the centenary and what better way to celebrate the momentous occasion than to bring out the compilation on Olave Lady Baden Powell, the Chief Guide of one of the greatest voluntary movements in History. The delight is all the more pleasurable as its being brought out by our own local association – Shivajinagar Local Association, which is a minuscule part of over 10 Million Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and over 1.5 Million Adult Volunteers form 145 Countries across the world.

I am delighted to go through the compilation which has been taken up as a challenge by our local association and proud to say that they have been very successful in being informative on the life and challenges of Lady Baden Powell who overlived Lord Baden Powell by over 35 years.

I congratulate the Shivajinagar Local Association for bringing out such an informative compilation which reflects and represents the well researched and intellectual approach of our very own Guides and Adult leaders.

**M.A. KHALID**
**State Secretary**

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**THE BHARAT SCOUTS & GUIDES, KARNATAKA**

A. DEVAPRAKASH
DIST. CHIEF COMMISSIONER
BANGALORE NORTH DISTRICT

STATE HEADQUARTERS
PROF. SIVASHANKAR CIRCLE
KONDAJJI BASAPPA ROAD
FORT, BANGALORE-560 002

# MESSAGE

I congratulate the Shivajinagar Local Association, affiliated to the Bangalore North District of The Bharat Scouts & Guides, Karnataka, for having brought out in a book form, the treasure of collections from the life of Lady Baden Powell, the World Chief Guide, by Smt. Mythily Sampath.

I am sure that this book will inspire, motivate and blaze a trail for the young people as well as the adult leaders in the value of documentation. I am referring to the anecdote in the Philippines in March 1958, as told by Lady Baden Powell in this enlightening book.

It is my desire that every Scout & Guide should read this book from cover to cover.

**A. DEVAPRAKASH**
Dist. Chief Commissioner
Bangalore North District

THE BHARAT SCOUTS AND GUIDES KARNATAKA
Shivajinagar Local Association
Bangalore North District

# MESSAGE

**"Lady Baden-Powell – A Great Lady, Our Great Inspiration"**

I read "Lady Baden Powell – A Great Lady, Our Great Inspiration" with immense interest. Mrs. Mythily Sampath has really worked hard to compile this inspiring book. Lady Olave Baden Powell has been an iconic figure who has inspired generations of Guides and Scouts through out the world. She along with the founder – her husband Lord Baden Powell started this movement which was never thought of before. Even after the Founder's demise in 1941 Lady Baden Powell carried on the torch and touched everybody who came in contact, with her kindness. In the present world, full of strife and turmoil it is absolutely necessary to know about life, times and work of Olave Baden Powell especially the younger generation. I congratulate Mrs. Mythily Sampath for compiling about this great lady particularly for the painstaking research which has gone into it.

I wish God's blessings for all who are connected with Scouting and Guiding.

With good wishes.

**Rathnajali Nicodemus**
**President**
**The Bharat Scouts and Guides**
**Shivaji Nagar Local Association**
**Bangalore North District**

# INTRODUCTION

This compilation is an effort to honour our World Chief Guide – Lady Baden Powell.

Olave Lady Baden Powell is one of the most fondly remembered women who loved and cared for millions, which inturn was reciprocated. Her message throughout her life time will be a constant reminder of the un-equalled service that she gave to mankind.

We, the Bharat Scouts and Guides are happy beneficiaries of her magnanimity. Our Chief Guide in her autobiography has stated that "I have been called The Mother of Millions and children outgrow their mother nonetheless, I hold fast in my mind the eager look in most children's eyes and the sweet friendly grip of outstretched hands."

I hope this compilation will greatly inspire, stimulate and reward the Guides and young women to follow her as a role model, to base their life on.

I profusely thank Ms. Rathnajali Nicodmus, President, Mr. T.S. Lucas, State Commissioner [Scouts] Karnataka and Chairman, Executive Committee, Shivajinagar Local Association, Ms. Saroja.P, Former Director, The Bharat Scouts and Guides, National Head Quarters, New Delhi, Mrs. Revathy.B, LT. [B], District Training Commissioner [G], Bangalore North District and Ms. Krupa Vijai, Secretary, Shivajinagar Local Association, The Bharat Scouts and Guides for their help and support.

Mythily Sampath
Former Asst. State Commissioner [G]
Karnataka

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## Chapter 1

# LADY BADEN POWELL'S LIFE – AN INSPIRATION FOR THE YOUTH TO EMULATE

1916 : Enrolling recruits as County Commissioner for Sussex

Lady Baden Powell was born on 22nd February 1889. Her father Harold Soames, the historian and an admirer of King of Norway - 'Olęf', named her Olave.

A lover of music. Nature and pets, Olave was a traveller and this helped her later in her life. For she was destined to travel the world over and fullfill a grand mission of friendship and good will through Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting.

This development served as stepping stones for her career as a role model for the youth to follow. One of the most loved and fondly remembered women of the 20th century is Lady Baden Powell.

Olave accompanied her father on a holiday cruise with the RMS Arcadian to Jamaica. During this trip, she met Robert Baden Powell who won the war in Mafeking. After a courtship, she was engaged in September, followed by marriage at St. Peters Church, Dorset, England on October 30, 1912.

**Olave on her pony with her father, mother and the family dog in attendance**

Olave accompanied her husband in all tours and participated in the scouting events at different places. On 30th October, 1913, the first anniversary of her wedding, her first child Peter was born, two years later, Heather was born and the third child Betty was born in 1917.

Olave got enrolled as a member of the Girl Guide Movement in 1915. With her steadfast interest, hard work and sound decision, she took interest in the growth of guiding in the United Kingdom. Consequent to her accomplishment in 1918, she carried out an important step such as recruitment of adults for leadership roles. In recognition of her dedication to the core, she was presented a 'SILVER FISH', the highest guide award. Her mission of service to the movement extended to several countries with accelerated activity.

**Olave Warranted as Scoutmaster of the Ewhurst Scout Troop-1913**

The spread of the Movement necessiated in the formation of International Committee with an over-seas council. Subsequent developments during the 4 years saw the organizing of The First World Camp at Foxlease, England in 1924. Forty countries participated.

At the 5th International Conference in Hungary in 1928, the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts was formed and The International Council was renamed as ***The World Conference***. Lady Baden Powell was honoured as 'World Chief Guide' in 1930.

The Guide Movement thus acquired a measure of womanliness. Her energy and business methods combined with her faith in the Founder, strengthened the organisation and rendered the movement increasingly popular. Accepting the honour done to her, she promised to do her best to help everybody, all the time.

The final two years of Lord Baden Powell's life were spent quietly at Paxtu [complete peace] with its magnificent views of Mount Kenya. Lady Baden Powell cared for the garden, played tennis and learnt the local language, while her husband took to painting. One of his paintings, an elephant  now hangs in the International Centre of Gillwell Park.

Olave, at the time of her engagement, wearing the Scout Thanks Badge Baden Powell gave her

**Sitting for a portrait bust by sculptor David Wynne, 1971**

The life of the Founder Lord Baden Powell ended on 8th January 1941 and he was laid to rest in a little cemetery at Nyeri, close to Paxtu, within the sight of the mountain that he loved.

Lady Baden Powell returned to England in 1942 to continue the work that she started, with more attachment.

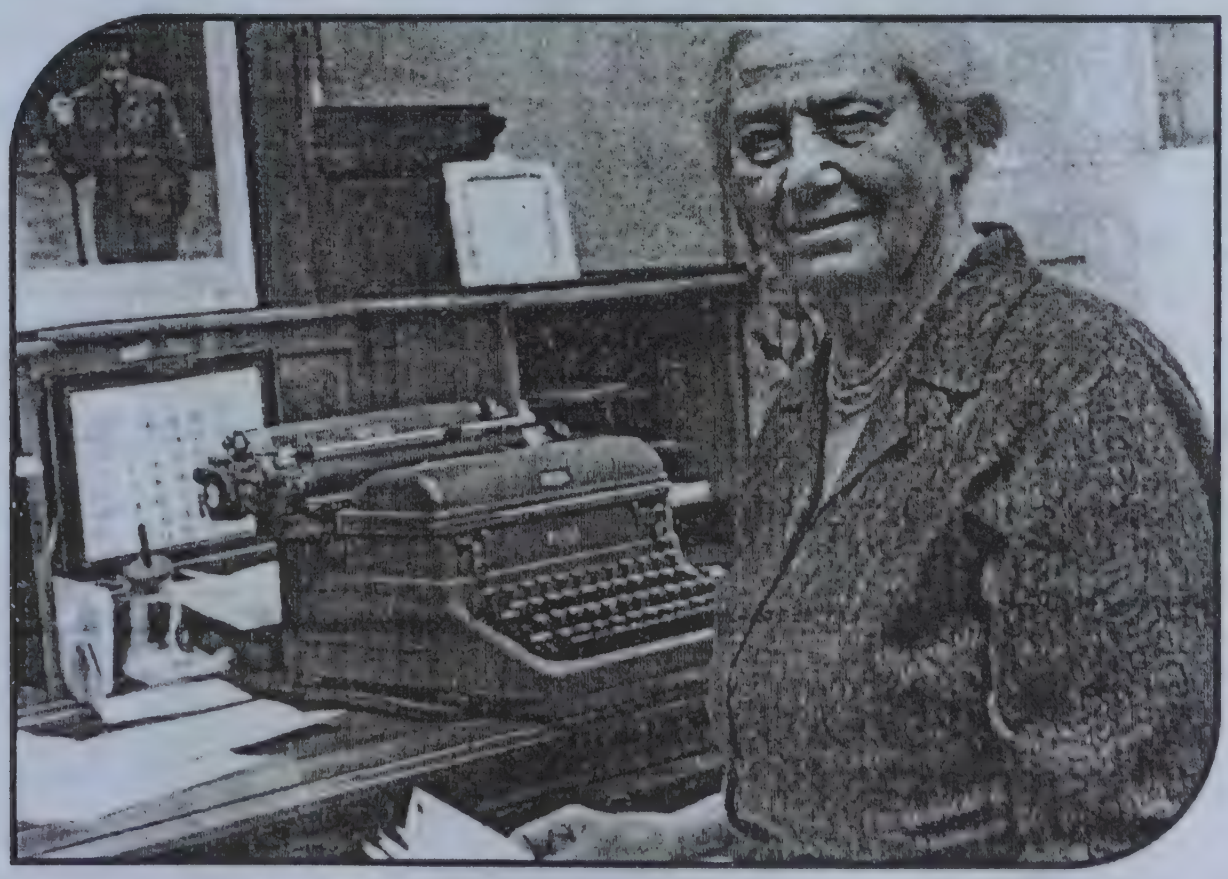
For 30 years, Hampton Court Palace in England was home for the World Chief Guide. Amidst the treasures like Badges, Ribbons and number of valuable gifts in her apartment, she welcomed host of friends numbering two thousand of them, as well as attending to enormous correspondence.

Olave always responded generously and some times at very short notice for requests from all over the world for messages or articles. She advised when problemsarose and encouraged the members at all times.

Most remarkable of all has been the speed with which she has written to express her appreciation at the conclusion of a visit.

**Lady Baden Powell at Hampton Court with some of her favourite souvenirs**

Those who were with her on her world tours reported that, after take off, the typewriter would be uncased. She would thank the President/ Prime Minister/Guides in her inevitable style with full warmth, delighting them. The letter of thanks would be ready for posting on her arrival at the next station.



**The World Chief Guide, still at her desk**

**Olave 80th birthday party, February 22, 1969**

Olave says - "Each one of you adding that little quota to the strength and glory of the whole fellowship which I have the privilege of leading and serving. We are a 'TOWER AND INFLUENCE' which is astronomical in its extent and its size and I owe all guides my care and my thought in the same measure."

**1960 Warwickshire Jubilee Camp to celebrate 50 years of Guiding**

The World Chief Guide travelled the world until 1970, working un-tiringly for the Girl Guides and Girl Scouts Movement, touring thousands of miles all over the world. In 1973, she moved to a nursing home. She maintained contact with Guide Association.

25th June, 1977 was a day on which millions mourned throughout the world, united in grief at the loss of Lady Baden Powell, who had died peacefully in her sleep - lived 88 years, 4 months and 4 days. Her ashes were flown to Kenya and placed in the little cemetery at Kenya. There the two people who together had created and sustained the Guiding and Scouting Movements, were once again united in peace. ⊙

1. Babyhood
2. Childhood
3. Girlhood
4. Wifehood
5. Motherhood
6. Guidehood
7. Widowhood
8. Grandmother-hood
9. Great Grandmother -hood

Her spirit will surely remain alive in each of us as we strive to carry out ~~ear~~ the law and the promise. We rejoice in the legacy of fellowship she and her husband have given us. The greatest thing which she did for guides was that she united them all into a friendly family. Lady Baden Powell, like her husband was keen on the beauty of Nature and the presence of God in the simple things around her. We remember with gratitude, the gift of cheerfulness and encouragement, her infectious good humour and her sense of fun. Let us try to live up to love and laugh and live and spread happiness everywhere.

A big architectural complex was built in memory of the World Chief Guide called the "Olave Baden Powell Centre" in London.

The World Association of Girl Guides
and Girl Scouts - Olave House

The Chief Guide had in some way a curious upbringing. It was strange preparation for the work which awaited her and perhaps the life in the open air, with animals for companions and absence of mental strain gave her good health which have been her greatest assets.

**Her smile shows everyone she meets how pleased she is to see them - 1962.**

**1969, on her 80th birthday reads the lesson at the Thinking Day Service in West Minister Abbey**

## Chapter 2

# LADY BADEN POWELL'S TRIBUTE TO LORD BADEN POWELL

*Mrs. Henrietta Grace Baden-Powell (1824-1914) and her daughter Agnes (1858-1945). Both women did a tremendous amount to encourage Robert Baden - Powell in his scheme for Girl Guides. Agnes' role of first President and authoress of 'How Girls Can Help To Build Up The Empire' (the first Handbook) is perhaps better known than Henrietta's. Baden-Powell wrote : 'When I first put forward the idea of the Girl Guide Movement I was not so very hopeful about it myself, until my mother, with her ripe experience and plucky spirit, urged me to go ahead.'*

After marriage, Lady Baden Powell became the companion of a man of world-wide fame, of many friends and innumerable connections, soldier, sportsman, traveller, writer and most important of all, the head of the rapidly growing movement of the 'Boy Scouts'.

- "It was an ideal happy marriage and a fruitful combination of two remarkable personalities, he, an original thinker, she with the fire and fervour of youth."
- "The shy, different girl had developed into a confident woman. I can only thank my husband for this transformation. Not that, he influenced me in any conscious fashion; he never said 'Do this' or 'Do that; he expected me to take on my own and mind about things, to write my own letters and speeches, to run my own show. But he had his marvellous ability to awaken in me qualities and talents, I had no idea I possessed. He built my confidence, he gave me encouragement; he inspired me."
- "He was so sweet, so loving, yet all the time, he had this brilliant, driving energy, hatching out wonderful ideas that had to be translated into words, writing, writing always writing. He really was an incredibly talented man."

- "In addition to the thirty-two books, he wrote and his countless news paper and magazine articles, he was also a talented sculptor and an artist of no mean ability, using his brush with equal ~~facility~~ felicity in either hand. Some of his finest paintings are the animal studies, he made in Kenya when he was in his eighties."

- "He was never idle, often during long voyage, he would take the opportunity of working on one of his books. I would type and prepare the manuscripts."

**1971 Unveils tributes to herself and B-P at Gilwell Park, Essex**

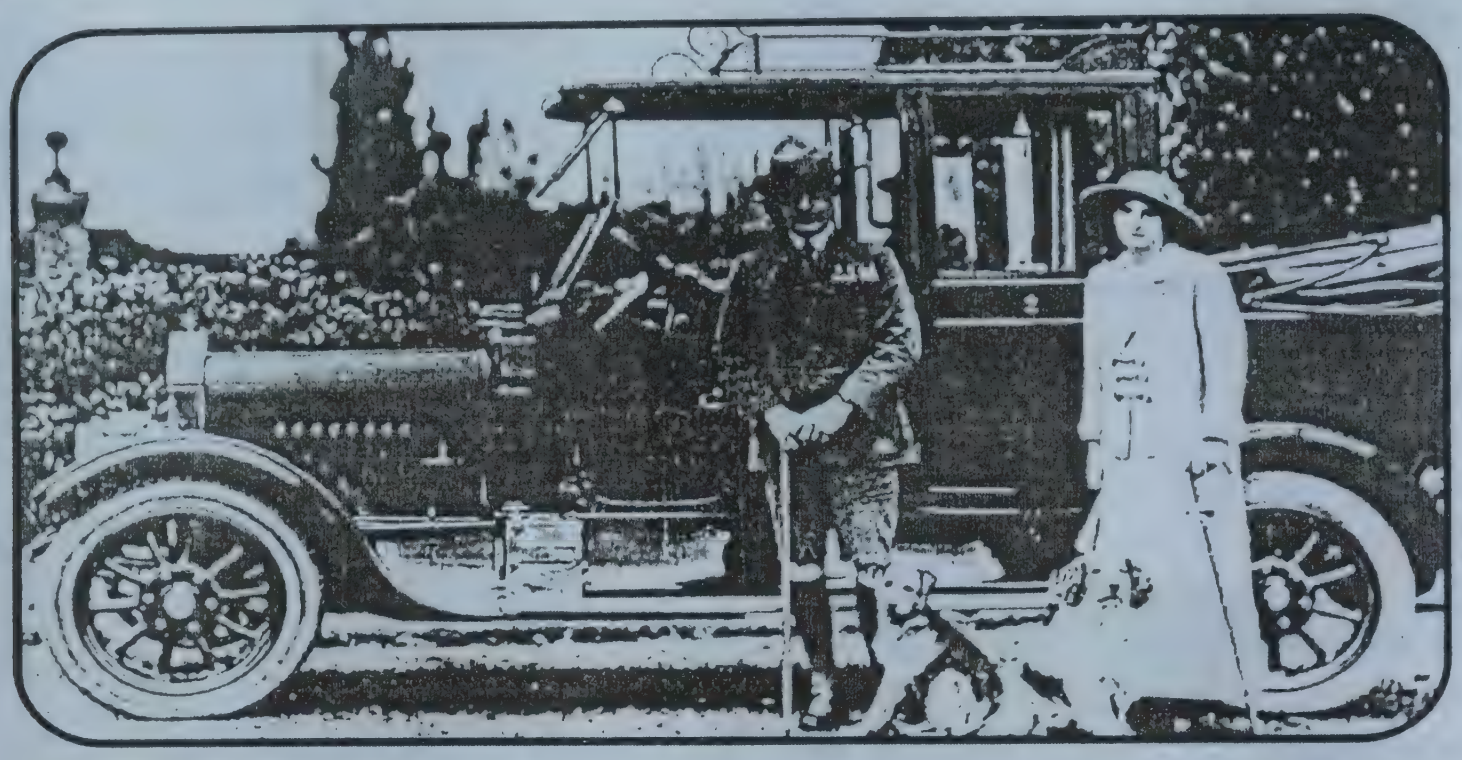
- "What wonderful years, we were working together, playing together, I can never be sufficiently grateful for the life we shared."

- "Your Founder was one of the happiest men because he knew the great truth that happiness comes not from what we have but we give and what we share."'

- "Oh, what a husband and what a man I have married. [I wrote ardently in May 1914]. The perfect man if ever there was one perfect mind and heart filled only with ideals and kindness and goodness. A tongue that never lies or slanders and an eye that sees the best in all things and all time."

- "It was wonderful working with my husband striving towards a common goal, imbued with the same ideals. We had the same sense of values, the

same sense of humour, our ideas were in accord on everything. We could achieve much more than the sum of what either of us could have achieved separately. We are leading brother and sister movements, we could travel together and contribute to each other's work."



**Lord and Lady Baden-Powell with their wedding present, nicknamed 'Jam Roll'**

- "Despite the difference in our ages, despite the eminent position in public life, we were completely in accord with one another, we never had a thought apart. He was a pivot of my life, I adore him."
- "I thank God daily", wrote Olave, for the wonderful way in which His Divine Hand led us both [Robert and Olave] to come together ..... How richly God blessed us both in giving us our work and each other?"
- "How humble it made me feel to think that my darling Robin and I had been privileged to create these two vast world-wide movements, to have influenced generation after generation of boys and girls. Imagine the potential benefit to mankind if even half of those millions of youngsters who have passed through the two Movements remember their Scout and Guide promise throughout their life."
- "He felt that becoming a 'Lord' might raise a barrier between himself and the boys he led. He liked always to feel that the boys viewed him as one of themselves, that they would not be shy of approaching him."
- "We had to attend the 5th World Jamboree at Holland. It was going to be a problem to know how to protect Robin while he was there. He was such a beloved leader to the millions of scouts around the world that he was

mobbed wherever he went. In their enthusiasm to be near him and touch him, the boys did not realize the strain it was for a man of his age."

- "I was allowed to go to Gilwell in September 1971 to unveil the magnificient head of my husband by David Wynae which was being placed in the international centre there, but otherwise public engagement have been kept to a minimum."
- "I endeavoured to cope with the hundreds of letters that reached me form all over the world. How he was loved! I could know and take comfort from the thought that my own sense of loss was shared by hundreds of thousands - no millions - who knew him, I walked, and wrote and thought and tried to count my blessings!"
- "After all, nothing could be a richer treasure to me than my beloved husband - younger in spirit and vigour."
- "He was a man entirely free from personal ambition, wholly content with his work. His hobbies, his family and his larger scout family - yet fated to receive countless worldly honours and rewards. These he accepted not on his own behalf but as a tribute to scouting."
- "It is a tribute to my husband's genius that so many other organisations and educationalists have chosen to use his methods-which were quite unique when he introduced them. Indeed, scouting and guiding remain unique among youth movements, in that they are the only ones that are international in scope that seek to develop their members physically, mentally and spiritually."

**Lady Baden Powell & Lord Baden Powell's family picture**

**Baden Powell's House**

- He looked so sweet and perfect in death, just as he had been in life-utterly noble and good and dear and wonderful and great and faultless.
- I have so much to be thankful for a lifetime of enjoyable and absorbing work, millions of 'my' children all over the world, but above all the precious and ever fresh memory of nearly thirty years with my beloved Robin.
- I can hear his voice speaking to me now through his last letter and I long soon to 'go across' to be reunited with him.
- If ever a man lived a disciplined life and subjected himself to a never - ending giving out of his best for the sake of an ideal, that man was 'our founder' - the inspirer of all scouts and guides the world over.
- The peerage that king George bestowed upon him! Prince of Wales read out a telegram to the assembled scouts at Arrow Park, Jamboree. "It has given me great pleasure to mark this special event in your history by conferring a peerage on the chief scout, ever since its inception, he has been the mainspring of this great adventure, from its small and almost humble beginnings until today, when you number nearly two million in your ranks. The recognition of his valuable services to the cause will be welcomed by all who realise the importance of training the world's youth in mind and body ..."
- It is a wonderful compliment to my husband's vision and imagination that his programmes can appeal to the occupant of a **Palace** or of a MUD HUT in Africa.

➲ The grand Rally of Scouts held on 4th September, 1909 at the Crystal Palace, London for demonstrate to the public, the astonishing growth of the movement, Girls made their appearance in this rally un-invited and un-attended by grown ups. Lord Baden Powell gave them the name 'Guides' after a corps of Indian guides reknowned for their resource fulness and courage.

The amusing self-portrait suggests that nothing, including himself, should be taken too seriously

"The Chiefs" - 1935
He (B-P) had bidden me to make Guiding the biggest success that ever was for the good of others"
Lady Baden - Powell

## Chapter 3

# BITS AND PIECES OF OLAVE BADEN POWELL'S WORLD TOUR

Olave Baden Powell has been a world traveller from the time of her marriage. At first, she accompanied her husband to support him in developing the Scout and Guide Movement, from this time onwards Olave travelled extensively all over the world.

World Chief Guide spent much of her time in travelling all over the earth, visiting countries both great and small. Millions of miles she must have travelled, by sea, air, rail and road, there is hardly a country-scarcely a small island, where there are guides, that she has not been to, and in each one, she is loved and deeply respected. She has been described as "The most travelled woman in the world." Olave has visited one hundred and eleven countries in all.

She made use of any means of transport available for her tour, few examples - Rickshaw in Hong Kong, Helicopter in Britain, by Car in Surinam, by plane to West Indies, by Ship to Netherlands and from India to Burma by ship, by train and Pony.

**Lady Baden-Powell and campers at Foxlease [1924]**

**'I feel like the mother of a very large family of children and I care for you all very much."**
**World Chief Guide in Kenya [1965]**

Olave Baden Powell expressed about her tour-"The best part of any tour is the bliss of feeling one, who has done some thing of use to have helped people, to have given them pleasure and encouragement ."

Towards the end of July 1970, she became very ill, very exhausted, endlessly sleepy. The doctors diagnosed as acute diabeties and no foreign tours.

Her life, her visits and her messages will be a constant reminder of the unequalled service that this great lady had given to mankind during her life time.

In 1933, first Scout and Guide friendship cruises to visit members of the two movements in other countries.

In 1934, goes on second friendship cruise.

In 1938, goes on third Scout and Guide friendship cruise.

In 1945 April, tours Europe to encourage the renaissance of Scouting and Guiding.

In 1970, during Guide Diamond Jubilee year, travells extensively. Receives 1,000 Jubilee Diamond from South African guides, which is sold on behalf of the Association.

There have been tangible rewards' throughout my tour. I have received many decorations and freedom's but none gave me grater pleasure I think, than the Freedom of the City of Panama, which was bestowed on me on July 6th, 1959. It was 47 years since I had set foot in Panama during the Arcadian cruise of 1912, a happy girl of twenty-three with her beloved. 'Lient - General Baden Powell' as companion! Little did I dream then to what the future would hold.

"There is one great lesson to be learned from world travel, it is that, there is no part of the world which has not something to give as well as something to gain. It is two way traffic, whether we are getting as well as giving carrying something away as well as leaving something of ourselves behind - not material things, but the intangible qualities of friendship and understanding and respect for each other's way of life."

**North Malaya Rally at Penang in honour of Lady Baden Powell's visit to Malaya in 1958**

Most remarkable of all has been the speed with which she has written to express her appreciation at the conclusion of a visit. Those who were with her on her world tours often reported that, after take off, the typewriter would be uncased and the chief, on arrival at her next destination, would have a packet of letters ready for posting and they would know that everyone involved from the President or Prime Minister who had received her with a picnic lunch, would have been thanked in her inimitable manner and with a warmth that delighted them all.

She would often stay up until 2 or 3O' clock in the morning dashing out letters.

"To establish Guiding in every country under the wing and care of the World Association, I have travelled continuously from one part of the country to another, from one country to another, since 1942, I have been round the world five times and have flown 653 flights totalling well over half a million."

XI World Scout Jamboree, Marathon, Greece, 1963

**B.P - was no longer able to lead his Scouts in war work but, from the letters he received, he knew that they and the Guides were doing their parts faithfully**

A flower for the Chief from a Uganda Brownie

1964 - Meeting Brownies in Guyana

Australia : "The Guides there offered to give me an ice cream as a way of 'Thank you' for my visit. Just one ice cream per Guide. Instead of sticky melting ice cream they sent the cost of each ice cream to a 'Central Ice Cream Fund' which I have disbursed to provide books so urgently needed in South Africa. I have also presented doors for any headquarters I have opened or where I have laid the foundation stone."

Switzerland : Wherever I went in Switzerland, I received small tokens of affection that touched me deeply, bunches of flowers, quaint little drawings, simple poems, home made sweets and so on. Sometimes they were accompanied by notes from the donors, more often they were left anonymously in my hotel room or even in my railway carriage on leaving stations. One of the more original offerings took the form of a V - sign made out of fresh bananas on the seat of my carriage!

IN KOREA

1951, Jamaica : I was spending the day with some friends. I borrowed a swim suit - when the lender of it came down to join us with one of her visitor - Mr. Herald Peat.

'Have you ever been to the United States ? He asked me.'

'I was there in 1948', I replied.

'And are you coming again ?'

'I don't suppose so, no one has invited me.'

'I'll invite you, he said, 'come and do a lecture tour for me. I'm a lecture agent.

So there and then, on the beach in Jamaica in a borrowed swimsuit, I agree to undertake a lecture tour. After the World Jamboree in August 1955, I set out to tour North American continent.

I gave eighty six talks in Canada at places as far as Toronto, Medicine Hat and Vancouver. I drove all over the United States, giving another one hundred and eighty six major talks and seeing wonderful sights-millions of big Red Monarch butterflies in the trees outside Monotemey; hundreds of seals basking on a rocky islet off the Pacific coast; and wherever I went, hundreds and thousands of eager, happy faces of Guides and Brownies, Scouts and Cubs, I met.

**Chief Guide in Kenya**

We left Geneva, the frontier still to be crossed at Belgrade, and there was fuss and bother over the inspection of luggage and passport. An alarming looking woman was standing, arms akimbo, waiting to search suspects, and under the eye of police and inspectors, I had to fill up forms declaring why I came to the country, where I had been in, what I had done in, and what I had bought in, why I was leaving it, and where I am going! Then, as I handed in my written notes, suddenly the icy stare of officialdom broke down as a member of the staff saw my name, a gleam of surprise came over his face and out came a left hand to be gripped, the hand with the scout sign. While the other man dashed off into the town and hurriedly collected two young Guides, came tearing up the platform just in time for a tiny talk and a hand shake as my train pulled out.

**First Scout & Guide friendship cruise -**
**on board SS Calgaric with their children, Heather, Peter & Betty**

In Denmark : While visiting the Guide centres, some one said; do just peep in at our Guide house, but when we reached it we could not see the house for Guides! There were swarms of them every where-all ages, all sizes and all kinds; in the doorways, along the passages, up the stairs, stuffed into every corner of the place. The most marvelous meal had been prepared, with the loveliest table decorations of camp scenes and Guide activities to add to its attractions. Beside everyone's place, a bottle of lemonade had been placed, but these were no ordinary bottles. Each was dressed in a blue paper frock to represent a Guide, with the apple perched on the top to each with a face cut out in its rounded sides. They looked far too nice to disturb or to consume!

India 1921 : "We met one Indian ruler with £1,000 diamond in his turban and his horses hooves with gold leaf. In Madras, I attended a purdah tea - party of 700 women and was sickened by the sheer opulence of their jewels, even decorating their painted feet."

1923, we derived every bit as much pleasure from the birthday present Baden Powell received from Scout Head Quarters Staff two months later-a wireless broadcasting apparatus; It was such a novelty and so thrilling to be able to hear a concert actually at the time of its performance without being there.

At Boy Scout H.Q, Philadelphia

Making friends with Mexican Brownies

Denmark : One Danish Scout refused to wash the hand my husband had shaken! When at last it was borne in upon him that hygiene demanded that the ban be lifted, he insisted on bottling as a keepsake the water the hand been washed in!

Belgium 1927 : We walked to the railway station which was the office for granting licenses to fish. The Station Master wanted all sorts of information - and was very stiff and autocratic till he spotted my Legion of Honour button badge. Then he asked more politely, my profession. Directly I told him 'General' he was all politeness and smiles. He took down more particulars of age, date and day of birth and where etc., and finally handed me license to fish in any part of Belgium what so ever for which I paid him 15 Francs down.

1929, August 5th Jamboree : August 10th brought Robin's big 'surprise' present, I had been charged with the duty of finding out secretly what he would like. I asked him casually. 'A new pair of braces.' I duly passed on this information. As every Scout in the world was being asked to contribute one penny to the present, there was quite a considerable sum involved. In the end he was presented with a Rolls Royce car [Christened 'Jam Roll'], a trailer caravan, his portrait by David Jagger, a cheque for £2,800 and a pair of bright green braces!

Finland 1933 : We were pulled through the streets of Helsinki in an open carriage with Scouts between the shafts. The carriage was all bedecked with blue and white cornflowers, the Finnish National Colours.

We had the privilege of spending a day with Field Marshal Mannerheim, the great saviour of Finland. He entertained all 650 of us at a garden party in the Brunnsparken. In the middle of tea, a very small Finnish Wolf Cub marched smartly, and presenting an open book and pen to him said in English, 'Chief Scout, please to write here', Robin took the pen and book and asked jokingly 'But what if I don't know how to spell my name ? A look of dismay spread over the small boy's face and he gasped 'I can no more English'!

- **Switzerland 1945** : Before taking off from Croydan I was intrigued to receive an unexpected message, requesting me to be sure to look out of the aircraft before landing at Zurich. What this meant I could not imagine, until, as we neared our destination, peering out of the window, I saw below me a huge Trefoil, half red and half white, making an immense replica of the Swiss Guide Badge, spread out like a great mushroom on the ground. On landing, I found that this was composed of several hundred Guides all massed together, holding umbrellas up, skillfully covered half and half, with red and white paper [by Guides]. "I found a camp fire all ablaze but nobody there to enjoy it. There was just one scout master standing about, and he said that I was expected to call out the scouts by making some animal noise!"

**Receiving an American Express credit card from the Boy Scouts of America**

"It isn't easy to think quickly of the right one to choose, my mind switched vaguely from horses and hounds, to bull frogs and buffalo. Then suddenly, having heard lions in Africa their hunting noises, I mentally rehearsed their grants and growls and did my best to imitate that". It had the immediate effect of calling forth a wild, tumbling mass of wolf cubs, who came tearing out from their hiding places, followed another avalanche of running scouts, who had all been waiting, hidden in the trees for any sort of sound that I might make.

**World Chief Guide's visit to Tokyo in November 1962**

**Lady Baden Powell in Hong Kong**

France : During Nazi's time, Guides could not have French Flag for their ceremonies. For guide meetings, guides went in plain clothes, wearing a uniform was forbidden.

For the benefit of German police, guides pronounced themselves to be a 'Sports Society'. The guides coming from different streets, would assemble in a Private room unobserved, wearing all types of plain clothes, swathed in coats and mackintoshes, once inside, off came the camouflage covering; complete Guide uniform was underneath.

Guides standing round in their horseshoe formation, the colour party falls out; in dumb show, it fetches a colour that isn't there and marches to the Flag staff, The Flag staff isn't there is tied to the Halyard, and as the eyes of the company follow it in imagination from the ground upwards, it is hoisted on the top. The Guides in their eyes looking up, can see nothing flying from the Flag staff head.

South America : "South American tour undertaken by Olave, was helped towards improving the status of women. For example, in Lima, it was a quiet an occasion for the President's wife to give a reception for Guide Leaders [Guiders] indeed, for women to be 'noticed' officially at all. I was quite overcome by the welcome I received in the Latin American countries.

"The girls almost mobbed me, so thrilled were they to be having their own celebrations. They would press close to kiss me, to touch my hands and clothes."

1933 reached Rome on February 28th : "We were to have private audience with Pope. Pope was most gracious. He spoke no English, but through an interpreter, expressed his approval of Scouting and Guiding.

Before we left, he blessed us both and our work. From there Lord Baden Powell had an interview with Mussolini. The Italian leader closed down all youth movements and substituted his own organisation the BALILLA. Had a cordial meeting but Robin could not agree with Mussolini's assertion that Balilla was an improvement on Scouting, Robin pointed out, compulsory instead of voluntary; super nationalistic rather than International. Instead of developing individual character, it turned out youngsters all to one mould.

**World Chief Guide's visit to Tokyo, Nov. 1962**

Kenya - August 1st 1939 : "After longish tour round returning to camp about 8-00 (a.m) we suddenly saw a rhino came walking out of the bush. Watched him coming and when he saw his head went down and his tail went up and he rushed towards us. Capt. Gethin stepped on the grass and we fled off! He trotted off at 18 m.p.h. and we escorted him for a while. It was a real thrill! went back again to Namangai and in the evening went out again looking for elephants and had a grand sight of one by the road and he 'saw us off' too - at only 9 yards distance - almost exciting and lovely, a real good day. This elephant was the subject of Robin's painting. It now hangs in the International Centre at Gilwell Park.

1945 France : "For years, France had been short of milk. The little that there was, reserved for babies and small children. Many people had not tasted milk for years. Inspite of this, in their determination to show me the best hospitality possible, two guides had gone off early that morning calling at several farms outside the town until they had managed to obtain a tiny jug of milk for my tea."

I felt ashamed to be depriving a baby of its ration but it would have hurt the Guides more, had I refused to drink it.

If you cannot visit sister Guides in France or Finland, in Austria or Australia, in Italy or Iceland . . . you can reach out to them there in your MIND. And in this unseen, spiritual way, you can give them your uplifting sympathy and friendship.

Thus, do we Guides, of all kinds and of all ages and of all nations, go with the highest and the best towards the spreading of true peace and goodwill on earth.

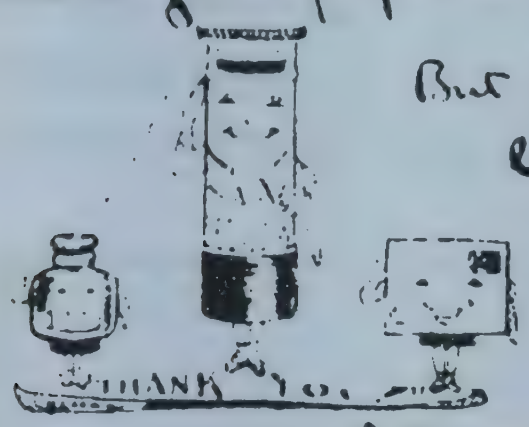
In 1968, the Boy Scouts of America generously gave me a Credit Card for unlimited travel by Air, Train or Car. This enabled me to make many short tours that I might otherwise not have been able to afford to undertake, and since 1970 when, for health reasons, I have given up overseas traveling altogether, they have graciously allowed me to use the credit card for other means of 'keeping in touch.'

**Olave in the United States, on the roof of Girl Scout Headquarters, New York**

**Olave participating in the Rangers Rally**

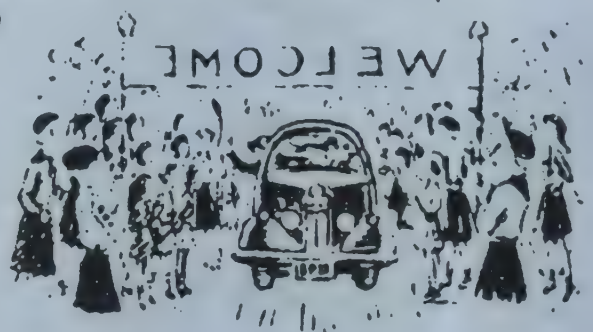
Dear All of you!

I am rather busy — and hurried — as you know! So please forgive me if I do not write you a proper letter!



But I send this without delay, just to bring you my very warm thanks for the delightful time I had with you all, last week.

It was so good of you to make me so welcome and, whilst I have enjoyed myself, and everything went off so well, I trust that there may also be happy results from the event in enhanced prosperity to our Guide Movement locally.



I have so appreciated being with you, and thank you sincerely for all you did to make my visit so enjoyable.

Olave Baden-Powell

Chief Guide

## Chapter 4

# VISITS TO INDIA

### [1921 - - - 1937 - - - 1960/61/62 - - - 1966 - - - 1968]

The Scouts and Guides Movement was accepted by several countries. In India, the schools run by Europeans also took the initiative. However, a number of organisations such as Agra Scouts, the Seva Samiti Scouts, Mrs. Annie Besants Scouts of South India had their own way of involvement in this movement. In the early stages only European leaders were managing the scout activities in India. The general principles of the movement was agreed by all races. This was against the spirit of scouting and the World Association policy of one country, one movement. Under such circumstances, the Viceroy of India, invited Lord and Lady Baden Powell for the purpose of reconciliation of the movement.

Lord and Lady Baden Powell accepted the invitation and arrived in Bombay on 28th January, 1921.

Both started their round of visits and lectures. Olave's first engagement was to address a large gathering of women on the subject of Guiding. After four days in Bombay, they left for Delhi. At each halt, there were Scouts and Guides to greet them.

**Lady Baden-Powell cheering the Guides with a smile**

**Lady Baden-Powell addressing the gathering in Punjab**

Lady Baden Powell - "It is a great privilege to have experienced the grandeur of the British Raj in India. I have visited sub-continent six times in all but no later visit has had quiet the impact as of the first.

The Viceroy was the Chief Scout and his wife was the Chief Guide. After discussing about the need for boys and girls, they set out on tour. They visited Agra, Jubbalpore, Allahabad, Lucknow, Benares, Ranchi and Madras to see the Mela. Every where they went, at all hours of the day and night-even at 3.30 a.m in the morning - Scouts and Guides were there at the station to welcome them.

**Lady Baden Powell with the Office Bearers of the Punjab State Bharat Scouts & Guides - 1961**

**Lady Baden-Powell opening the B.P. Bhawan at National Training Centre, Pachmarhi**

At **Madras**, they met Annie Besant. In scouting, Annie Besant saw an opportunity for promoting her educational aims and to this end she formed the Scouts of South India, an independent but enthusiastic body of scouts not affiliated to the official Baden Powell scouts. After good deal of discussion, Mrs. Annie Besant agreed to bring her Scouts of South India into the federation. The occasion was celebrated with an eight-course dinner cooked and served by one of Besant's scout troops. After dinner, Baden Powell named Mrs. Annie Besant Hon. Commissioner for India and invested her as a proper scout.

Lord and Lady Baden Powell continued their tour to Calcutta, later they had a brief holiday in Himalayas. Lord Baden Powell trying to capture in paint his impressions of the beauty of nature. His sketch books were filled with pictures of towering snow-peaks, morning light and characters seen in the mountain villages.

They left India, satisfied with a job well done. The whole organisation had been set on right lines. They felt the need of the Organising Commissioner. Lord Baden Powell authorised Mrs. Bear to organise and prepare a scheme to suit Indian conditions.

In 1937, Lord and Lady Baden Powell paid another visit to India, accompanied by their elder daughter, Heather. The main purpose of their visit to India was to attend the first "All India Jamboree" at Delhi.

**The Chief Guide witnessing the March Past in Bangalore - 1960**

Lord Baden Powell was thrilled to be able to attend their last mounted parade. Lady Arthur was present on the parade ground. She told me "how he rode on to the parade ground and although it was his eightieth birthday. he addressed the regiment."

**Opening the Scout & Guide Handicrafts Exhibition held at Guide Headquarters, Andhra Pradesh, on 29.02.1961**

Lady Baden Powell was sure that Guiding had a great deal to offer to the children of India and to the women who were just beginning to emerge from their traditional life. Lord Baden Powell rested in Delhi and Lady Baden Powell went on a tour visting, Guides in Agra, Madras, Hyderbad, Mysore, Bangalore, Nagpur, Calcutta, Patna, Lucknow and Jaipur. In all these cities, she was able to see the growing strength and influence of Guiding on the youth of India. They were all delighted to welcome her.

**Lady B-P declaring open the camp fire, Shivaji Park, Bombay**

**Anu Karkare, Guider In-charge at Sangam in 1966 with Lady Badan Powell**

**Greeting Lady Baden Powell**

Jamboree Bangalore

Sangam Songs

She met guides at about four railway stations. She got out and shook hands with all of them. She felt the tour of India was a wonderful experience and she gained considerable advancement for the Movement by their contacts.

Lady Baden Powell opens 'SANGAM' in 1966

1960/61 - visited India and the first time after partition. During this visit, she could see the results, clearly demonstrated. She was able to see the 'Literacy Project' at work. Guides were patiently teaching the illiterate to read. 'Each one, teach one', was the slogan. She was also to witness in some places, Guides in their, 'Garden Project' were using the patches of barren ground for productive use. Lady Baden Powell and her companion travelled from Amritsar to Delhi.

**Ranger Prochi Dhalla from Bombay, Miss Kish from Iran and Mrs. Najoo Choksey with Lady Baden Paden Powell and Betty Clay at Sangam for the opening - 1966**

**Lady Baden Powell with Mrs. Lakshmi Mazumdar, National Commissioner & Dr. Banker, State Chief Commissioner, Punjab State**

Lady Baden Powell at Jamboree, Bangalore

Lady B-P with the National Commissioner & other leaders of Mysore State during the 3rd All India Jamboree, Bangalore, 1960 - HAL Airport

From L to R : Col. Sundaram, Abdul Khader (Far East Commissioner) Leela Anjanappa, Lady B-P, Lakshmi Mazumdar & P.Shivashankar Foreground : Scouts from Villupuram MHS, Madras State, Photo taken by T.S.Lucas, Scout Master, VMHS Troop

It was queen's state visit to India, Lady Baden Powell was able to meet queen three times on different occassions. Lady Baden Powell had breakfast with Jawaharlal Nehru, the then Prime Minister of India and his daughter Indira Gandhi and grand sons, Rajiv Gandhi and Sanjay Gandhi.

Lady Baden Powell visited Rajghat to lay a wreath where Mahatma Gandhi was laid to rest and later visited Tajmahal.

President of India, Babu Rajendra Prasad, the Chief Patron of The Bharat Scouts and Guides received the Chief Guide and her companion at Rashtrapathi Bhavan.

Lady Baden Powell attended a 'Thinking Day' service at National Training Centre, Pachmarhi, with prayers by Parsee, Muslim, Hindu and Christian Guides and Scouts and she opened the "Baden Powell Memorial Guide House" at Pachmarhi, Madhya Pradesh and attended the third All India Scout and Guide, Jamboree held in Bangalore, Karnataka State. Being the then Joint Secretary for Tumkur District Association, I [Mythily Sampath] participated in the 3rd All India Jamboree as a Contingent Leader for the Guide Section.

In 1962, Lady Baden Powell visited Bombay and after completing her schedule of work, she flew to Kenya.

In 1966, The Chief Guide Lady Baden Powell visited India and opened 'Sangam' at Pune in India on 16th October, 1966. This is the youngest world centre. Since then, many international gatherings have been held. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts live together as sisters, learning each other's culture, religion and ways of life. They return to their country, rich in experience, carrying messages of love and friendship.

Lady Baden Powell with Mrs. Mazumdar, National Commissioner, India with the then Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru & his daughter Indira Gandhi

President of India, Babu Rajendra Prasad with Lady Baden Powell

## Chapter 5

# COMPLEMENTS TO OUR CHIEF GUIDE

**Mr. Harry Wheatcraft holding "Olave Baden Powell" roses**

- In 1972, Mr. Harry Wheatcroft, the famous rose grower, at Common Wealth Headquarters [U.K] presented a banquet of his latest triumph "Olave Baden Powell" a brilliant scarlet and fragrant hybrid tea rose. For 1972, autumn planting a limited number of 13,000 could be obtained only through the Girl Guides Association and our Chief is delighted to think of 'herself' blooming in countless gardens in the summer of 1973.

- The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts [WAGGGS] grew up from its infancy under her care, commitment and tireless leadership. Few organisations as large have been so united in their respect and love for their leader - but then few have been lucky enough to have had a leader like 'Lady Baden Powell' as she was affectionately called.

- When Lady Baden Powell was of Brownie age, one of her godmothers used to say to her : "Your mouth isn't large, but when you grin, you could put a whole potato in."

- In a programme full of special occasions, scout occasions ranked high. Here, Olave, once called by an African Scout the 'Mother of Millions', is unveiling the portrait bust of the Founder at Baden Powell House, London.

- A Scout who wrote expressing 'dreadful disappointment' about Baden Powell's marriage in 1912. Baden Powell replied; 'My future bride is as keen about Scouting as I am. She will help me in the work so that my marriage, instead of taking me from the Movement, will bring in another assistant to it and one who loves the Scouts as they, I am sure, will love her as soon as they get to know her.' Disappointed or not, 100,000 Scouts gave one penny each to give their Founder and his bride a Rolls-Royce as a wedding present.

- ***A Guider wrote*** : 'And her letters! They are gems, no-one writes just like her, when you realise the thousands of people she knows and meets and yet when you get a letter it is so personal and so full of life and with such depth too...'

- 'Perhaps the thing that touched me most was the letter she wrote to me from Perth. She had type-written it herself. Of all the officials, she probably felt obliged to write and thank, she has found time to write me a special personal note of thanks.' [*From one of the Chief's Aides on a visit to Australia*]

- 'She began walking along the fence, shaking hands and speaking to a few of the Guides and Brownies. I could see now that she was bubbling over with excitement too, and I felt I was meeting an old and dear friend rather than such an important person. May be, this is the reason why she is so well loved. She does not wish us to think of her as important, only as the head of a very large 'family'.

**Lady Baden Powell shaking hands with Guides, two at a time.**

- 'Lady Baden Powell shook hands with us two at a time. When the three of us clasped hands, I felt as if I was part of something big and important. Her voice was strong - not loud, just strong. She sounded like a leader, a friendly leader and I like her.'

- A retired schoolmistress recalls the day in Lucknow, India - 50 years ago, when Olave pinned a Guide badge on her, with the most radiant smile I had ever seen, and all for me alone. Since then I have tried to pass on that smile to other children.

- There will not be the usual fiesta and fanfare. There will not be tons and tons of gifts, as world celebrities are apt to be loaded with. There will neither be a continuous shower of sampaguitas, roses and orchids. But surely, we must bring to her the GIRL SCOUT, the LEADER, the VOLUNTEER in Philippine Scouting: as many leaders, as many adult volunteers as we can gather around her for the counselling, the guidance, and the inspiration she alone can give.

- Guider from Berne wrote "Something of our affection for you as the symbol of international guide friendship, and of the immense encouragement it has been to us to get good news from our sisters abroad."

Receives Guide Thinking Day Message flown by carrier Pigeon from all over Great Britain to the Chief Guide - 1943

- We, at the Girl Scouts of the Philippines, are happy beneficiaries of such magnanimity; and to us, Olave Lady Baden Powell will always be the WOMAN FOR ALL SEASON - 1958.
- "In France Gracious speeches of welcome were then made to me, bidding me welcome, not only as Chief Guide, but as a messenger of good will from England itself and paeans of praise and administration and gratitude were sung to me of what France owed to Great Britain. It was most touching."
- ***From a Swiss Guider*** – "I want to assure you that more than ever, I am devoted to Guiding and that all my energy and strength shall go more than ever towards the spreading of our ideal."
- ***At Luxembourg*** – "I met an outstanding old scout, who gave me perhaps the most striking tribute to scouting that I have ever heard. It was the spirit of scouting he said, that had helped him to stand his ordeal, that had supported him through, endure the years of privation and horror. It was scouting, he said that had given him an inner life which enabled him to rise above it all and live."
- ***From Belgium friends*** – "Lady Baden Powell, you have brought us news and have opened the windows of our country towards yours. In our turn, we will work with enthusiasm towards a greater understanding and co-operation, in order to contribute with you all to the recreation of world peace."
- *A note from the Danish Scout*, who attended 1929 Jamboree, in which he says most thankful, I take the opportunity to bring you and all yours my wishes for good luck and better humanship according to the scout law.
- *A Norwegian Guide wrote*, after Lady Baden Powell's visit, until the dark days brought about by the invasion had caused her country to be isolated from the rest of her Guide friends in other lands, she had never realised that she was so tied up with all the world and she went on to say that because of the isolation, that she had suffered and because of the merciful redemption from that isolation, she now had 'a sense of belongingness and obligation to people in all other countries, that she did not have before.
- ***In 1941, from World Bureau*** – "Our Chief Guide is beloved of all and brings fresh inspiration to leaders and children wherever she goes in her travels through the world, she is completely selfless and untiring in her work for our movement."

- In July 1930, at the World Conference, by the unanimous vote of the delegates, elected to be Chief Guide of the world. This is a striking testimony to the respect and affection felt for her by the Guides and Girl Scouts of all countries.
- Lady Baden Powell, in thanking the conference said; I feel unworthy, but I will do my best. I love guiding wherever it is, and in whatever country it is. As you know, Guiding is very precious to me personally, I will do my best to help everybody - every where.
- The Second International Conference was held in 1922 at Newnham College, Cambridge. "We listened and talked and made friends. There, with our chief's among us, we felt the power the oneness of the movement, that we were indeed sisters working side by side to make real a noble sisterhood, a great ideal, among all nations of the world."
- In May, 1934, a really Guide like event took place in England and Wales. The then Editor of the Guide [magazine] who gave a brilliant idea of a greeting to the Chief Guide being signalled from four points of the compass to reach her in "Guide Week". The messages were sent from Cumberland, East Yorkshire, North Wales and the Scilly Isles and passed through 32 countries on their way to London. The greetings were signalled in the morse code by flag or by flashlight, from hill tops to church towers, and finally arrived on May 17th. The last signalling post was in the garden of Buckingham Palace [by permission of his Majesty, the king] and from there they were signalled to the roof of Guide Headquarters, where the Chief Guide stood to receive them.

  All four messages came in within the space of one hour, and all were transmitted correctly.
- In 1943, on 20th February, the Army Pigeon Service Nobly arranged that pigeons with special thinking day messages should fly from all the different countries to the Chief Guide in London. "Off we go to a roof top in the heart of London where the Chief Guide and Chief Commissioner of England, Army Pigeon Service representatives and press men eagerly scan the skies for any sign of Pigeon." We are told to hide among the chimney pots while the pigeoneers call it and rattle tins of corn. It alights on a roof top and plays pee-bo [Hide and seek] with deliberate intent, before it finally goes happily hop through its little trapdoor.

The first message has arrived and is handed into the Chief. It is from Derbyshire and reads - "These messengers flying from your birth place - Chesterfield - take Derbyshire's thoughts and prayers to all Guides to form a strong link in the chain of Guiding round the world." The Chief Guide is thrilled beyond words that the first Pigeon to arrive should come from her birth place.

From : **Miss. SYLIVA TATTON - BROWN - SHROPSHIRE**

Scene : A Girl Guide Rally in Blehain Park, Oxfordshire in 1952. The County Commissioner is introducing invited Guests who are not in uniform.

| | | |
|---|---|---|
| ***County Commissioner*** | : | "This is ABC, who has just arrived from the West Indies." |
| ***Chief Guide*** | : | "Lovely to see you again, you are lunching with me tomorrow." |
| ***Chief Commissioner*** | : | "You won't know Mrs. WILLIS one of our Presidents." |
| ***Chief Guide*** | : | "But of course I remember Mrs. Willis; Calcutta 1928." |
| ***Chief Commissioner*** | : | "This is Miss. TATTON BROWN." |
| ***Chief Guide*** | : | "Where have we met before ?" |
| ***Miss. Tatton Brown*** | : | "At the World Conference in 1950, in Sussex, but originally in Egypt. You have just ~~seeing~~ saw my friend the Chief Commissioner for the International Guides in Egypt, how is she ?" |
| ***Chief Guide*** | : | "Of course, we were in ATHENS together, you know she has just lost her mother ?" |
| ***Miss. Tatton Brown*** | : | I know she had lost her mother, she was BERYL BAKER, a friend of mine. |

But that the Chief Guide, with literally thousands of Commissioner friends, should remember and show concern.

Also in 5 minutes she had spanned Guiding on four continents.

➲ Chief Guide Olave Baden Powell's grandson Robin Clay :

I remember chatting with some of her [Olave's] friends, once and some one happened to mention a small town somewhere in USA. Immediately, granny told us of some friends who lived there, with details that included the birthday of their dog!

Another town was mentioned, she came out with similar stories. And I realised that one could have named almost any small town anywhere in the world and she would have known someone there.

From Miss. Molly Hoblya, Ex. County Commissioner, Dorset.

"I escorted her a lot during visit to INDIA, especially to HYDERABAD, and I didn't meet her [the Chief Guide] until some years later, after I had married and was living in Dorset.

She [the Chief Guide] came to open Brownsea Island, when I was introduced, she looked at me as if she thought she ought to know me, so I said "I was Molly Irwin."

'Of course!' the Chief Guide replied, "How's HYDERABAD, have heard from them in kent!?"

## AT PHILIPPINES IN MARCH 1958

➲ "One little story concerns a Boy Scout last year. He was in the guard of honour at a big meeting and that he was very anxious at the end of the meeting. He came to the Scout Commissioner in charge and said, "Please can I have a document ? May I have a certificate or some little piece of paper recording the fact that I was in the guard of honour at this great occasion, this year, the 1957 Centenary year?" And when he was asked why he needed the document, he said, "I want to be able to show it to my grand children."

He was only aged 14, but he was looking ahead to the day when he would be in the next generation and telling the next generation after that about the centenary year and he was proud to feel that he had been a scout in the centenary year – the year celebrating the hundredth year of my husband's birth.

➲ "She saw me at a distance and with all animation said. "Hello Phillippines!" Then when she was almost half-through with her speech, she requested me to show myself by almost lifting me to the stool. I clinched the few words I was requested to say with this : "SCOUTING IS ABOUT THE BEST GIFT THAT GREAT BRITAIN HAS GIVEN TO THE WORLD."

**Mariouita S. Castelo, June 28, 1952**
**Ranger Rally and Pageant**

## ENGLAND

After Lucheon party given in her honour in 1944, when the flying bombs were at their worst - indeed two had just fallen, she was offered a lift in a car : 'No, thank you' she replied firmly. 'I shall walk home' And she did! Such stuff Baden Powell's are made!

➲ Mrs. Olave Baden Powell's youngest daughter, Betty Clay's son - "I lived with my granny, Olave Baden Powell, World Chief Guide for a couple of years in the early 1960's." On one occasion she was the guest of Honour at a large event, Wembley Stadium [London]. As she was getting ready, I noticed her, polishing her guide badge - not just the front but the back as well, as she said, as a reminder to be clean in always, but not only just visible once.

➲ From Mrs. Christine Brown, Weston - Super - Mane. "I was a guide in Kent, when our company attended a county rally, Excitement filled the air as the Chief Guide approached us, and I jumped on to a log to have a better view. I missed my footing and fell backwards into a bed of nettles!" My misfortune had great compensation as she [Chief Guide] saw what had happened and immediately showed her concern by asking me if I was all right - that 'made my day' and nothing else mattered as she had spoken to me personally. A year later, now a Ranger in Somerset, I was in Guard of Honour to welcome the Chief Guide. To my amazement as she approached, she caught my eye, stopped and exclaimed, "surely you are the guide who fell into nettles in Kent."

**1930, The World Chief Guide and Baden Powell unveil The Girl Guide railway engine at Euston Station, London**

- ***Editor of the Magazine*** – "I was told to do this when I made my promise as a Brownie in 1966, and I still clean my badge back and front today. It was a way to remember that the promise should be kept inside as well as outside, not only where other people can not see it."

- *December 9th, 1930* – "Both to London early, but delayed 40 minutes by fog. Rush to Euston and there we both 'Unveil' name Plates on two huge L.M.S. railway engines called 'The Girl Guide' and 'The Boy Scouts' and each wearing the respective badges on their sides! We both make speeches and the railway officials also do so. We and the Scout and Guide Guards of Honour Climb about on the engines. We are photographed and cinema'd and 'talkie'd' and then depart . . . . ."

Those trains were like the Scout and Guide Movements - two powerful driving forces capable of taking millions of young people safely along the right lines.

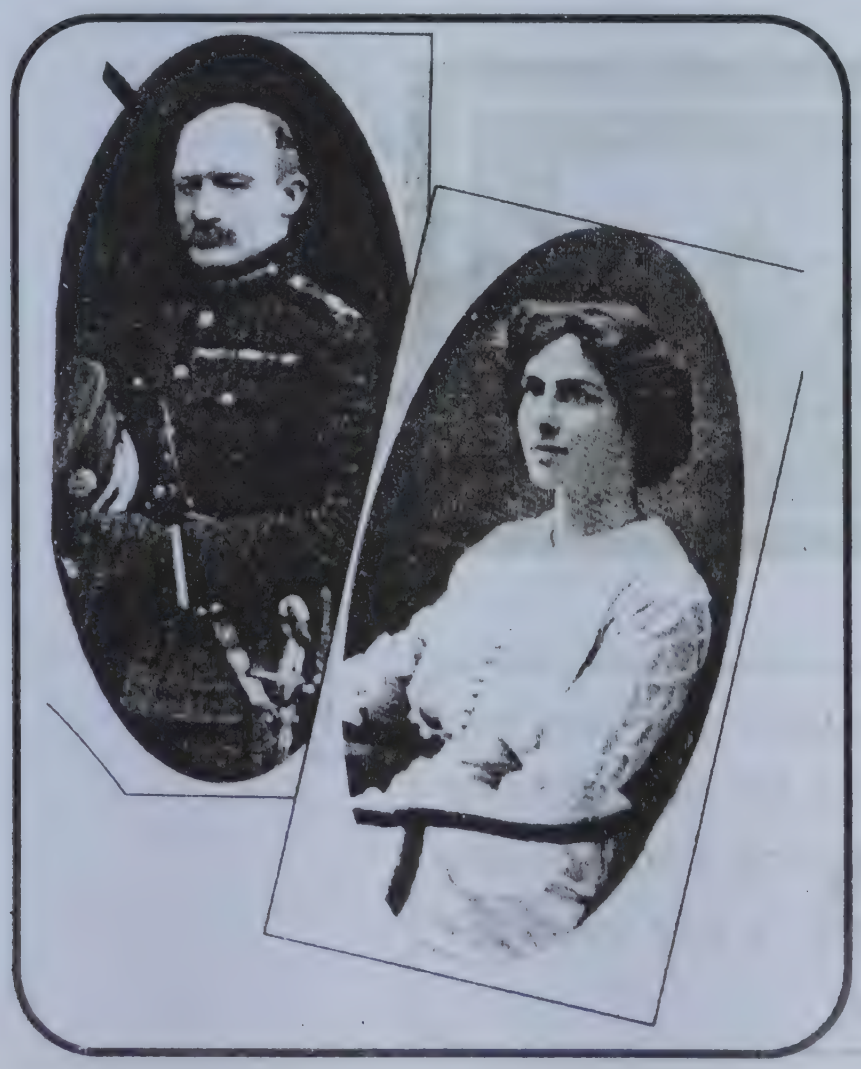
- Lays the Foundation stone of Baden Powell House, the Scout International Hostel and Headquarters which the queen opened in 1961.
- At the invitation of the National Trust, officially opens Brownsea Island, National Trust property.

## PAX LODGE

- Olave Baden Powell Centre for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts - Hampstead, London. Pax Lodge was built during the centenary of the birth of Olave Baden Powell. Girl Guides and Girl Scouts from around the world will come to PAX LODGE for conferences, seminars, workshops, in transit on holiday, when working in London. They, their families, their friends, including members of the Scout Movement, will all be welcome at this new World Centre. There will be special facilities for the disabled.

  PAX LODGE will make a contribution to the development of Girl Guiding/ Girl Scouting in the world through the training opportunities which it offers and the international friendships made within its walls.

- In 1981, February 12th, The Joint Memorial Stone to Olave and Robert Baden Powell was dedicated in West Minister Abbey - the first joint memorial in the Abbey.

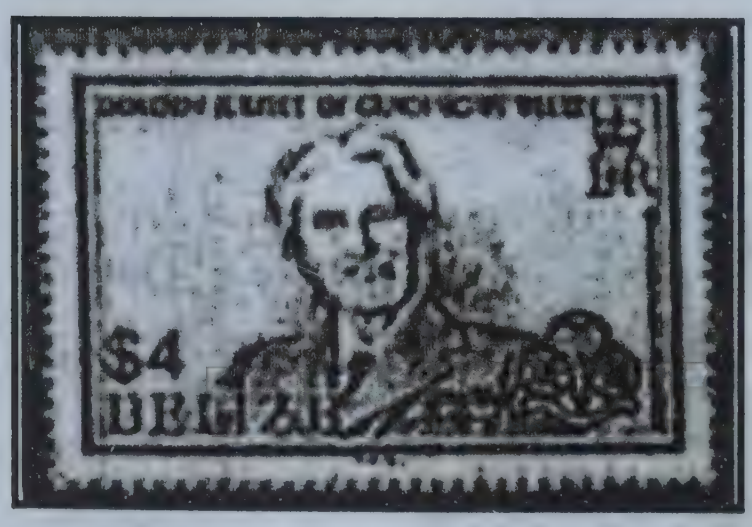


**1912, within a year Olave Soames and her "Boy Scout Man", General Sir Robert Baden Powell were married**

## Chapter 6

# COMMEMORIAL STAMPS

*Lady Badenn Powell was a young woman when she married Lord BP and became an active Scouter. Some stamps such as this one show her as she appeared in the very early days of the Scout and Guide movement.*



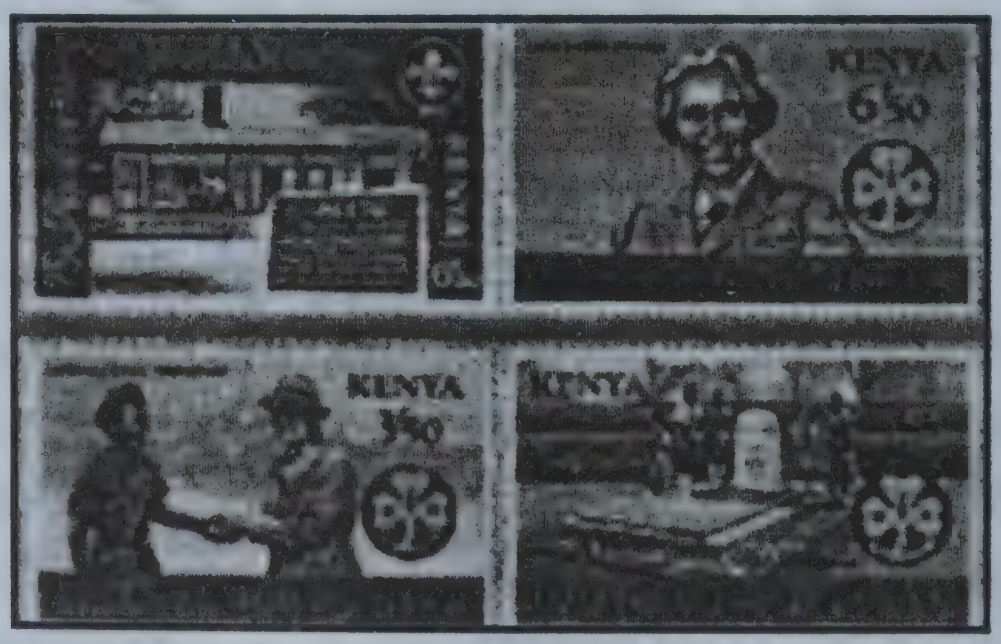

*Grace Wheatley's painting was often copied for other stamp issues honoring Lady Baden Powell. Here is one example from Belize.*

*She first appeared on a stamp issued in Haiti in 1962 to honor the 22nd Anniversary of Scouting in Haiti. Since then, she has appeared on numerous stamps, souvenir sheets and post cards in recognition of her achievements. The Haiti Scout set received a special red overprint in 1964 for the winter olympics held in Innsbruck, Austria.*

## On Tape

*Did you know that the World Chief Guide has made 21 tape recordings*

*Lady Baden Powell travelled extensively in her role as Chief Girl Guide. Here she is depicted on a visit to the lsle of Man at the dedication of Cunningham House.*




Lord Baden Powell visited Kenya in 1935. The 'Paxtu' cottage was specially built for him. Lord and Lady Baden Powell lived there from 1938 until his death in 1941. Lord Baden Powell was buried at Nyeri, Kenya. Lady Baden Powell moved back to England after his death. She is buried beside Lord Baden Powell in Kenya after her death.

# Chapter 7

## OLAVE BADEN POWELL'S AWARDS

Silver Fish of the
Girl Guides U.K - 1918

The Dame Grand Cross
of the order of the
British Empire - 1932

Gold Fish of the
Girl Guides - U.K - 1932

Medal of Merit from
Poland - 1933

Estonian Red Cross Award - 1933

White Rose of Finland - 1934

'Silver Wolf', the highest
Scout Award - 1935

King George VI Coronation Medal - 1935

Order of the Silver Phoenix of
Greece - 1950

Medal of Honour and Merit
HAITI - 1951

Honourable Wood Badge
of the Boy Scouts - 1957

Bronze Wolf of the Boy Scouts,
International Award - 1957

Order of the
Sun of Peru - 1959

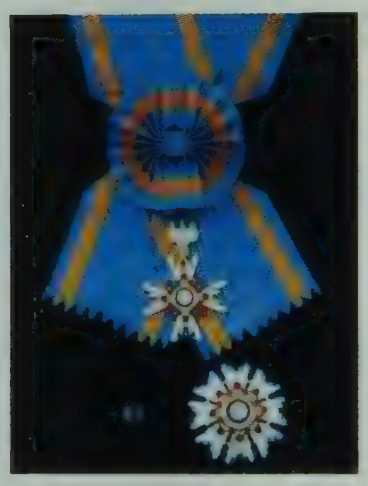
Order of Bernard
O' Higgins - Chile - 1959

Order of the Vasco-de-Balboa - PANAMA, July 6th, 1959

Order of Del Merito - CHILE - 1959

Silver Fox of the Boy Scouts of Canada - 1959

Order of Cedars of Lebanan - 1960



Order of the Sacred Treasure Japan - 1963

Order of the Ducal Crown of Oaks - 1965

Silver Lion of KENYA - 1965

Gold Cross - San Salvador, Luxemburg- 1965

Silver Kangaroo of AUSTRALIA - 1967

Silver Elephant of India - 1968

Silver Bee of JAMAICA - 1969

Silver Spring Book of South Africa - 1970

Food & Agriculture Organisation [Part of UN], each year produced a coin with Ceres on one side and the Head of the distinguished women on the other - 1974

The World Chief Guide had a habit of giving presents on her birthday. On 19th February, 1983, as close as was possible to the 22nd, The Birthday, the custom of giving was perpetuated when Lord and Lady Baden Powell gave the World Association the most wonderful gift. I was very moved by the simple ceremony in which I accepted on behalf of WAGGGS the absolutely magnificent collection of the World Chief Guide's Awards.

Few have seen the insignia and ribbons yet. The generosity, thoughtfulness and imagination of The Chief Commissioner and her husband which prompted them to give their precious inheritance for safe keeping and display at the Olave Baden Powell Centre for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts will ensure that thousands of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts will not only see their sparkle and splendour, but will come to realise how widely recognized and honoured the World Chief Guide was.

The architect is considering how best to display these treasures in some way symbolic of the recipient and the aims and object of the World Association.

Nothing could be more appropriate as a gift to the World Association's new 'home' than these Awards directly associated with Olave Baden Powell, whom the 7½ million members of the Movement world-wide seek to honour in the Centre being established in her memory.

The slogan of the Centre, 'Building for the Future of the Girls of the World' is dynamic, progressive and challenging, all words which remind us of the World Chief Guide. We believe that her spirit will be felt in this Centre. You, I all of us, as members of the Movement, must be grateful for the birthday gift of 1983 which has given the Centre a tangible link with Olave Baden Powell.

— ***Dr. Helen M. Laird***
Chairman
World Committee

## OLAVE BADEN - POWELL'S AWARDS

A much treasured family inheritance, the Awards bestowed on Olave Lady Baden Powell have been given by the World Chief Guide's grandson. The Lord Baden Powell and his wife, Lady Baden Powell [The Chief Commissioner] to The World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts.

The Lord and Lady Baden Powell handed them to Dr. Helen M. Laird, Chairman of the World Committee at an informal private ceremony after the annual Thinking Day Service at Westminster Abbey and St. Margaret's, Westminster, on Saturday, 19th February, 1983. Of the collection of twelve, 'the hardest to part with', commented Lady Baden Powell, was the Star and Sash of the GBE.

It will rest along with the other illustrious ribbons and insignia in the Olave Baden Powell Centre for Girl guides and Girl Scouts now under construction in Hampstead.

*— Patricia Fitzpatrick*
Publicity Secretary, CHQ

**The Lord and The Lady Baden-Powell present the awards of the World Chief Guide to the Chairman of the World Committee for Olave Centre**

## Chapter 8

# THINKING DAY

*A day of thought, action, sharing and giving*

Thinking Day is observed on 22nd February each year, the joint birthday of the Founder and the World Chief Guide.

On Thinking Day girl guides/girl scouts around the world think of each other with love and friendship.

Members of the movement contribute as much as they can to the Thinking Day fund to further the movement.

The Thinking Day fund is one of the World Association's major sources of income.

Donations to the Thinking Day fund help to promote girl guiding/girl scouting around the world by :

- providing leadership training.
- encouraging international exchange.
- supporting community projects.
- helping national organizations working towards Full and Associate Membership of WAGGGS.

- The concept of Thinking Day originated in 1926, at the international conference, held in the United States of America.
- Thinking Day was first celebrated in 1927. In 1932, at the 7th World Conference, it was suggested that girl guides/girl scouts act as well as think by donating money to the Thinking Day fund.
- The Thinking Day Fund was established to promote girl guiding/girl scouting wherever the need was the greatest.
- In 1975, the Thinking Day Symbol was introduced to be used in Thinking Day celebrations and in promoting the fund. The World Trefoil in the centre represents the World Association. The arrows pointing towards the trefoil represent action and give direction for that action. The arrows may also represent ways in which the World Association can be helped by all its members. The circle represents the world of girl guiding/girl scouting.

# Thinking Day Greetings

*From the World Association Centres*

***Switzerland***

OUR
CHALET
wishes you all
a
Happy
Thinking Day

***London** Now 'PAX LODGE'*

***OLAVE HOUSE***

*Our*
*Love to*
*All our*
*Visitors*
*Especially*

*Hail to*
*Other*
*Unknown*
*Sisters*
*Everywhere*

***Mexico***

OUR CABANA

SALUDOS Y UN ABRAZOTE A TODOS NUESTROS AMIGOS.

GREETINGS AND DIG HUG TO ALL OUR FRIENDS.

***India***

SANGAM WAGGGS

***Thinking Day Greetings to all our friends.***

# Greetings

## From The World Association of Girl Guides And Girl Scout Members Organizations

### *United States*

GIRL SCOUTS OF THE U.S.A.
Send 1975
THINKING DAY GREETINGS
around the world
in International Women's Year

INVOLVED

### *United Kingdom*

From The Girl Guides Association

### *Liberia*

*As the left hand*
*extended expresses*
*warm friendship,*
*and in the African tradition*
*"THE WHITE HEART" ; meaning purity*
*of heart, so warm is the*
*Friendship of the Liberian*
*Girl Guides Association*
*to our dear mother*
*THE WORLD CHIEF GUIDE*
*and sincere greetings to*
*our Sister Guides / Girl*
*Scouts around*
*the world*

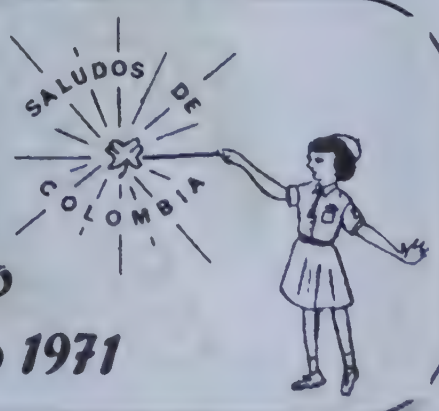
### *Japan*

### *South Africa*

**Sends**
**Thinking Day**
**Greetings**
**to our Friends**
**all over the World**

### *Colombia*

*Dia del*
*Pensamiento*
*22de Febrero 1971*



## *Switzerland*

Les Suisses adressent aux Guides du monde un heureux anniversaire.
SWITZERLAND
La Fédération des Eclaireuses du Suisse adresse aux Guides du monde entier ses voeux de joie et d'amitié à l'occasion du 22 février et souhaite à notre Chef Guide un

## *Trinidad & Tobago*

## *Philippines*

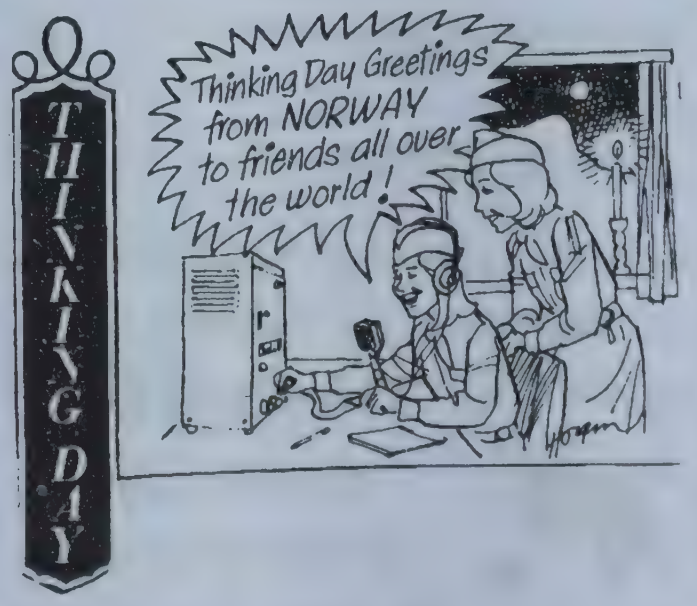
**MABUHAY to all our friends arodun the world !**
**Thinking Day Greetings from the**
**GIRL SCOUTS OF THE PHILIPPINES**

## *Malta*

*The Guides and Brownie Guides of Malta wish the Chief Guide a very Happy Birthday and send Thinking Day wishes to all their sister Guides / Girl Scouts*

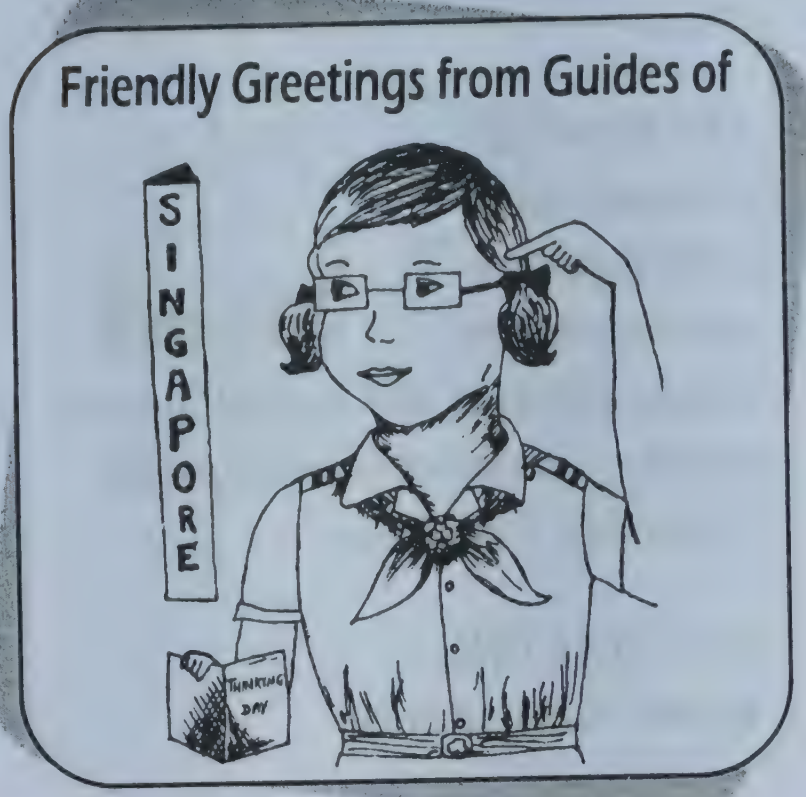
## *Ceylon*

## *Norway*

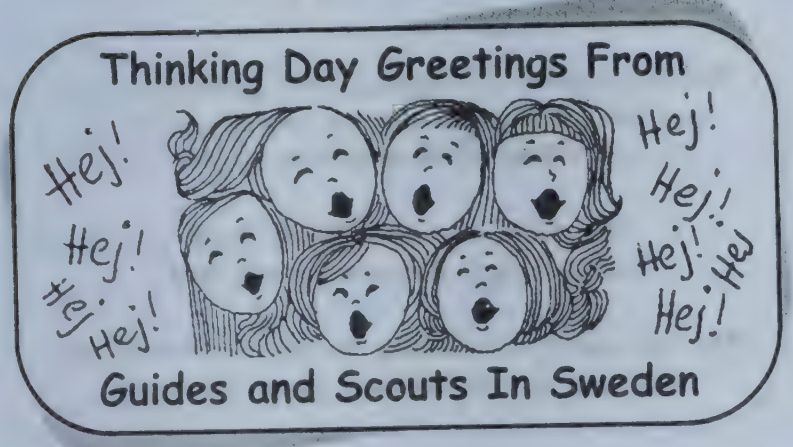


## HAITI

## Singapore

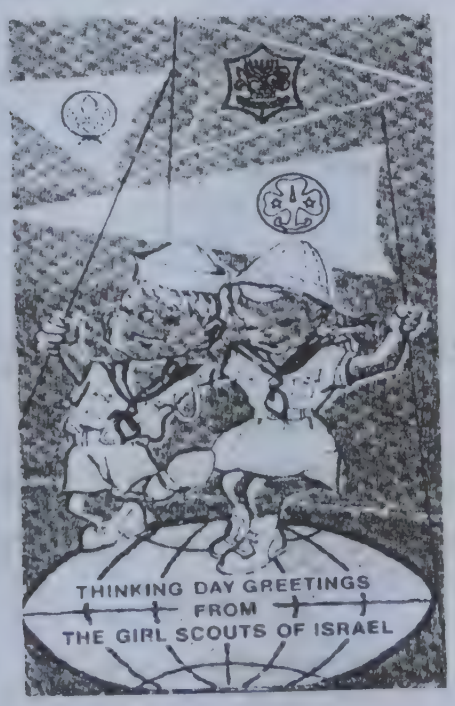



## Sweden




## Canada

## Israel




## China

## *New Zealand*

*The Hand of Friendship which forms an encircling chain around the world, passes on the warmest Greetings for Thinking Day from*

*New ZEALAND in the South Pacific.*

## *Rhodesia*

## *Tanzaniz*

*The Tanzania Girl Guides send Thinking Day Greetings to all Girl Guides and Boy Scouts around the World.*

## *Cyprus*

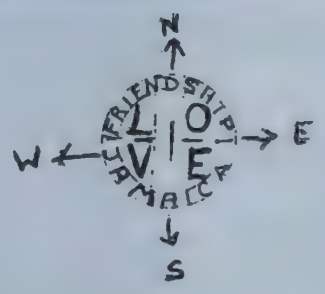
**We the Guides of Cyprus, send greetings and our best wishes to all our Sister Guides / Girl Scouts all over the world.**

**We with our dear Chief Guide many Happy Returns of the Day!**

**May the spirit of Guiding Spread to more girls and may our Sisterhood grow stronger.**

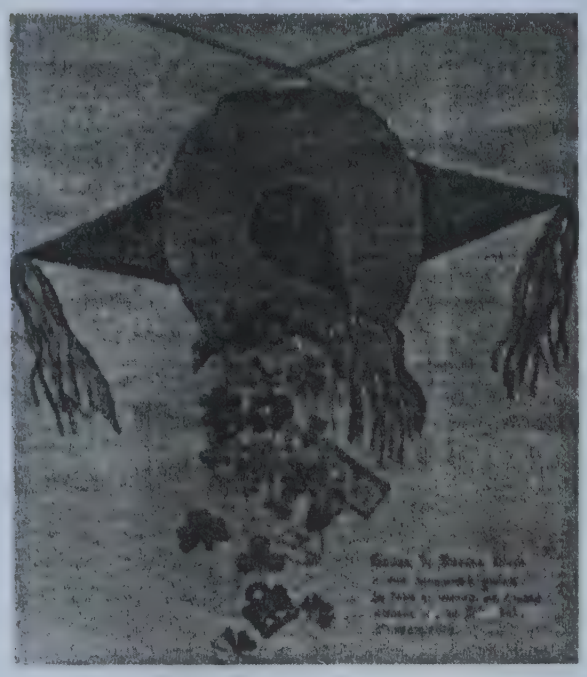
## *Australia*

## *Jamaica*

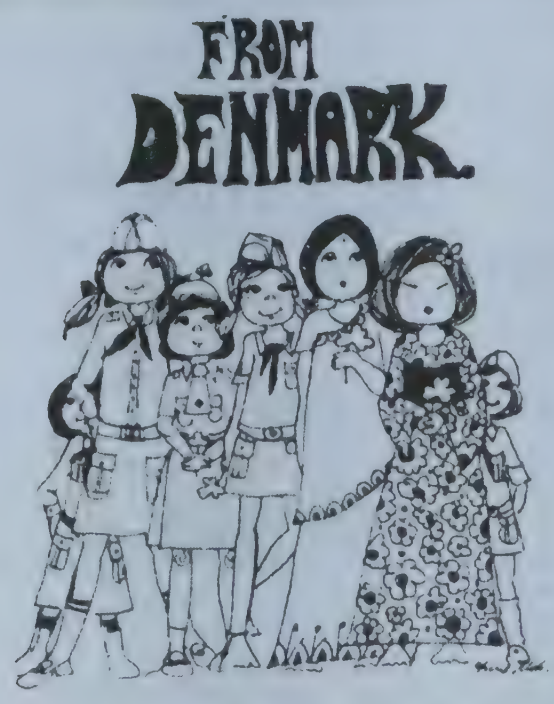



Jamaica's wishes for friendship, love and peace,"bounce" from Country to country gathering momentum with each new "bounce" around the world.

### *Mexico*



### *Denmark*




### *Netherlands*

*The Dutch Guides Send Their Warmest Greetings and good wishes to Guides all Over the World.*

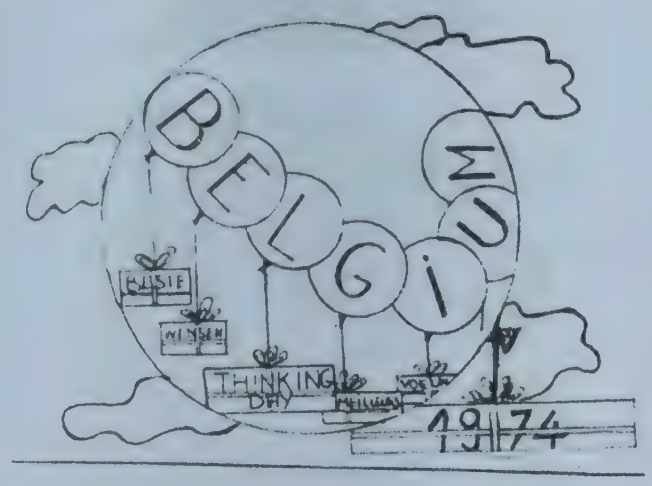
### *Congo (Kinshasa)*

A l'occasion du 22 fevrier, l' Association des Guides du Congo Kinshasa - adresse ses voeux d'amitie, d'union et de comprehension a toutes lea Guides de Monde, et souhaite a Lady B-P un joyeux anniversaire.

### *Luxembourg*

### *Korea*

**Belgium**




**Republic of China**

**Liechtenstein**

*Friendly greetings to all Girl Guides of the world are sent out of the tiny land on the borders of Switzerland and Austria the Principality of Liechtenstein*

**Argentina**

**THINKING DAY**

*The Argentine guides send their warmest Greetings and good wishes to their sisters throughout the world on February 22nd.*

**Spain**

*El Comite de Enlace del*
*Guidismo en Espana*
*El Guiatge Catala*
*Guias Sant Jordi*
*Noies I Nois Escolted*
*Girl I boy Scouts de*
*Catalunya*
*Germanor de Nois I Noies*
*Guied*
*Y*
*La Asociacion Guias be Espana*
***RECUERDAN CON***
***AMISTAD A TODOS LAS***
***GUIAS DEL MUNDO***

## Chapter 9

The following was published in "Matilda" in October, 1970
as a reprint from the "waratah"

# SIGNIFICANCE OF THE LEFT HAND SHAKE

- Lady Baden Powell

"Truth is stronger than fiction."

"When my husband was in West Africa on that campaign in 1895-96, he heard of the legend of two tribes who lived next door to one another and were always having trouble and even wars between them. This was very bad and disastrous for both, with cattle thieving and so on. "Then the very same chief of one of them realising how wrong it was, gathered his councilors together and they then decided not to have fighting again, but to try to come to terms with their warrior neighbors. "So when, after a time, the enemy came advancing towards them expecting them also to advance and start fighting, this good army stood still instead of advancing to attack back."

There was a code of honour which said that an un-armed man who could not defend himself was never attacked, so this good chief of the peace-loving tribe dropped his arms and walked slowly out ahead of his men and after standing alone for a moment walked towards the enemy [who had stopped with surprise at this unexpected turn of events] and, holding out his left hand after flinging down his shield and spears, said "I come unarmed and I hold out my left hand to you as a sign of friendship and trust." "We are neighbors and should not live in enmity. From now on we wish to live in peace and we trust you do the same and to be friends."

"Well, all those years later when my husband founded the Boy Scouts, he knew that boys and girls like secret signs and so he suggested that we should have and use this "secret sign" of shaking hands differently from the ordinary way. As we all in our Movement truly trust each other, this method of our own shaking with the left hand instead of the right, would be used throughout the movement." The Left hand is nearer to the heart. "Whether it is true or not, I for one know that the friendship part of it is as true for our Movement as it was for those tribes of long ago; and please God, it will always remain part of the backdrop and essence of Scouting and Guiding."

Olave Baden-Powell

# Chapter 10

# MESSAGES

## *New Year Message from the Chief Guide*

What do you feel about beginning things, I wonder ?

I think I like most 'beginnings', starting a new book, you have that pleasant feeling of anticipation, picturing the different people you are reading about, and wondering who is going to do what as the plot begins to unravel itself. Beginning a new term at school is a bit of an ordeal sometimes, of course, but mixed in with the slight sinking feeling of anxiety is a tinge of excitement as to how the work and the matches will go, and what the new form companions will be like!

Beginning a new Guide Company or Brownie Pack is, of course, a specially interesting adventure; and beginning a journey is also one of the most exciting experiences that a Guide can have if it is going to be one of those camping trips abroad, or something of that kind.

And now this week we have got one of the most important beginnings of all - the beginning of a New Year - and what is 1955 going to do with you - or rather what are you going to do with 1955?

Last week I wished you a happy Christmas, and now I want to wish you a HAPPY NEW YEAR: I hope that it will be a busy and a successful one for you, in your guide doings as well as in all other ways, too.

Olave Baden-Powell

# MESSAGES

## *Thinking Day Message from the Chief Guide*

Thinking Day again - and what a Thinking Day! Here is one that comes only once in a year, and we Guides of today have the opportunity of sharing in it. It is a day for looking backwards with thankfulness and happiness for what our Founder has given us through our Movement; but it is also a day for looking forward with hope and determination to what WE are going to give to the Movement in the years to come. Let us see to it that, in the future, when you Guides of today are the grown-ups of the nation, there will be no children cut off from the fun of being Brownies and Guides through lack of people to lead them-as is so often the case today.

Good luck to you all, and Good Thanking and Good Thinking.

Olave Baden-Powell

## *Christmas Message from the World Chief Guide*

Well Here We All Are, approaching the time of celebrating Christmas and the starting of a New Year, and I want to offer to everyone of you who are members of this vast family of Guides - my very warmest and best wishes for a happy time - whether at work or on holiday, whatever position you hold in the Guide 'family', and I trust that each of the seven days between December the 25th and January the 1st, May bring some special happiness and pleasure to you. And it will if you do what all of us are expected to do all time - YOU KNOW WHAT!

And so at this special time of the year great plans are no doubt being made for the giving of presents to your own family, and giving some morsel of pleasure in some form to someone else - a friend who you know and care about, or to someone unknown to you in need of some small contribution of your time or money connected with some society or Committee or Association in your neighbourhood.

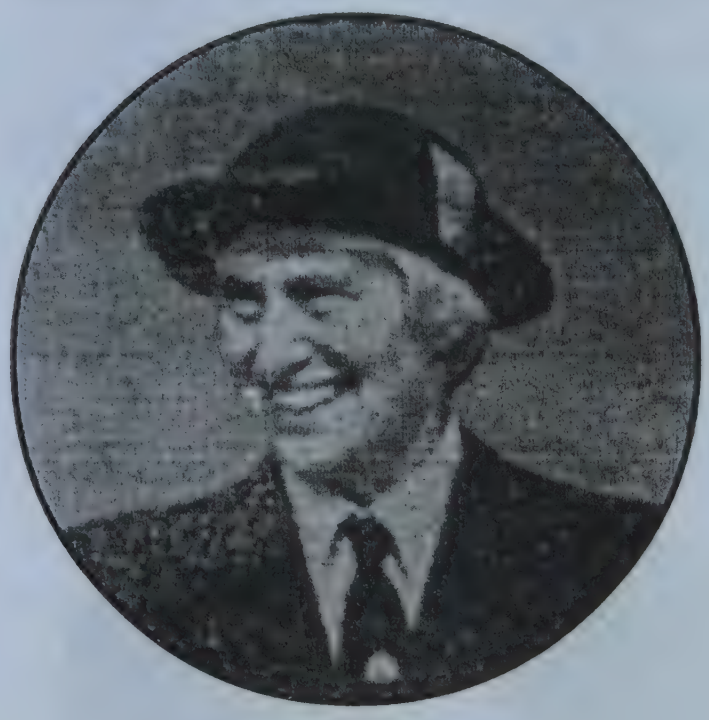
This is the special moment in the year when we Christians are drawn together in giving and getting something special in celebration of the birth of the Holy Baby on Christmas Day, and those who belong to other denominations join hands with us in thought at this time, and throughout the whole world there are people of many nations and faiths and races, who pray with us for Peace and Goodwill at this time.

We who believe in prayer to Almighty God can feel encouraged and inspired by the knowledge that millions of ounces of kindness and thoughtfulness for others, are at this time being poured out from the hearts and minds of all our members of all kinds and ages throughout this Christmas-tide, and YOUR OUNCE adds its weight to the whole.

May God bless you now and all through the coming year.

Olave Baden-Powell

# Thank You Guides!



I want first to thank all those Guides who have sent me such kind messages and 'get well' cards, while I was having that little spell in hospital. I am now well again, and all the better for your kind thoughts and prayers and good wishes that came to cheer me while I was laid up.

It is a good thing, when travelling around as I do, sometimes to have a 'rest pause' to enable one to think over and digest all the many things one has done and seen and experienced; and I have been thinking of what a lot of places I have already visited over here that remind me of home - Truto, Liverpool, Chester, Windsor, Halifax, and Kingston - and one day I even drove through HAMPTON and down through a valley called SUSSEX!

And what a small world it is! Flying from Halifax to Moncton I found a cheery little Air Hostess who nearly fell out of the plane with excitement at meeting me again. She had seen me last at Oslo, in Norway, where she was a keen Norwegian Guide. Then she came over to Canada to learn English, linked up with the Canadian Guides, and last year went with a party of them right down to our CABANA in Mexico by road - taking three days and three nights non-stop traveling by bus.

They had a grand time at Our Cabana, and then went for a trip to Acapulco - a seaside resort on the Pacific Ocean - which, of course, they had never seen before. It was a great excitement for them being in a foreign country, and, luckily, they were wearing Guide uniform. A young girl, recognizing them as Guides, rushed upto them and said that she was a member of the Guias de Mexico.

Then she gathered her Company of Guides together, and they welcomed them, took them into their homes, and gave them a lovely time as if they had known each other all their lives.

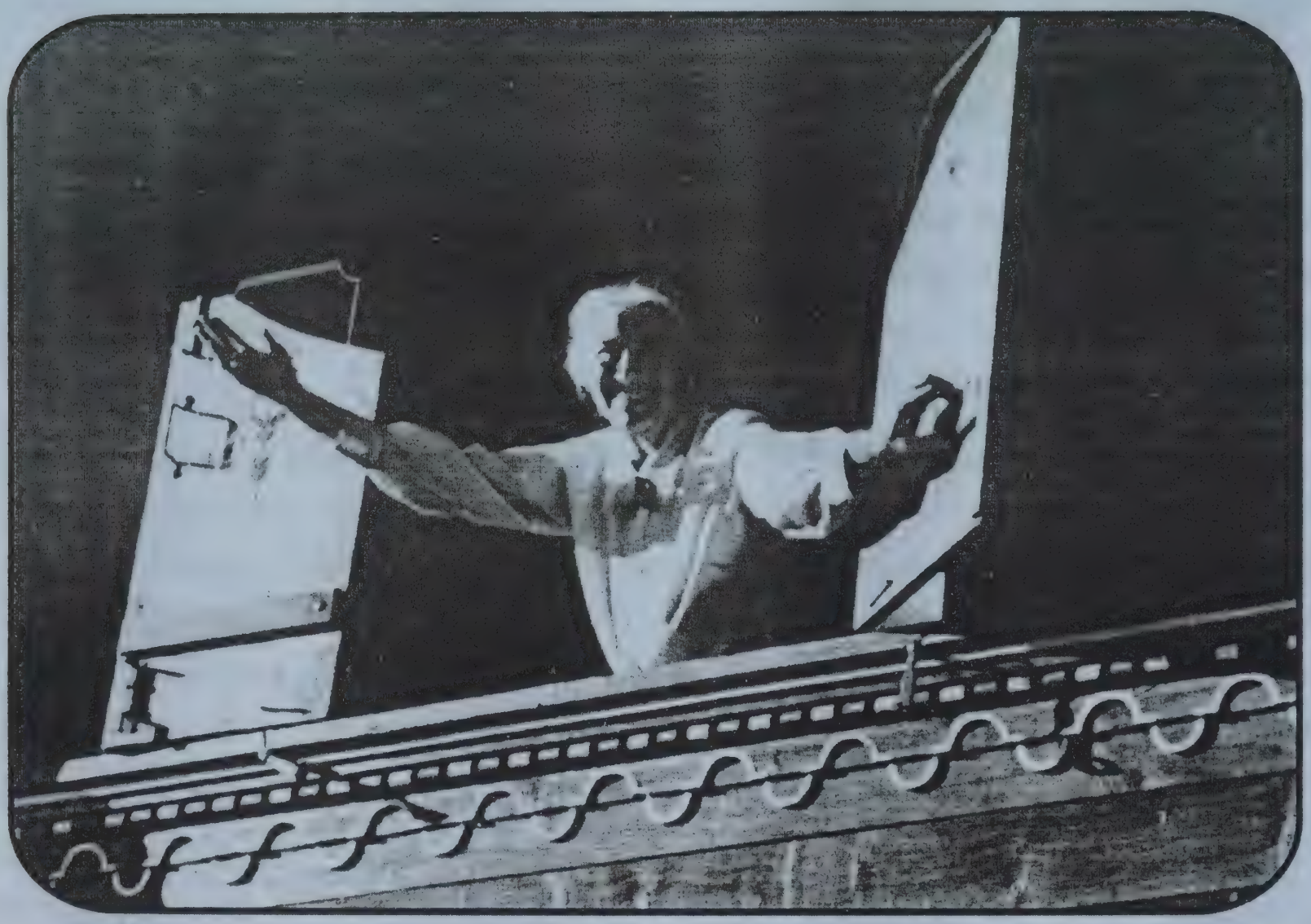
Isn't that a lovely story - Norwegians and Canadians mixing together like that and then getting such a welcome from Spanish-speaking people, with whom otherwise they would probably have found nothing in common.

A 'World Conference' in miniature!

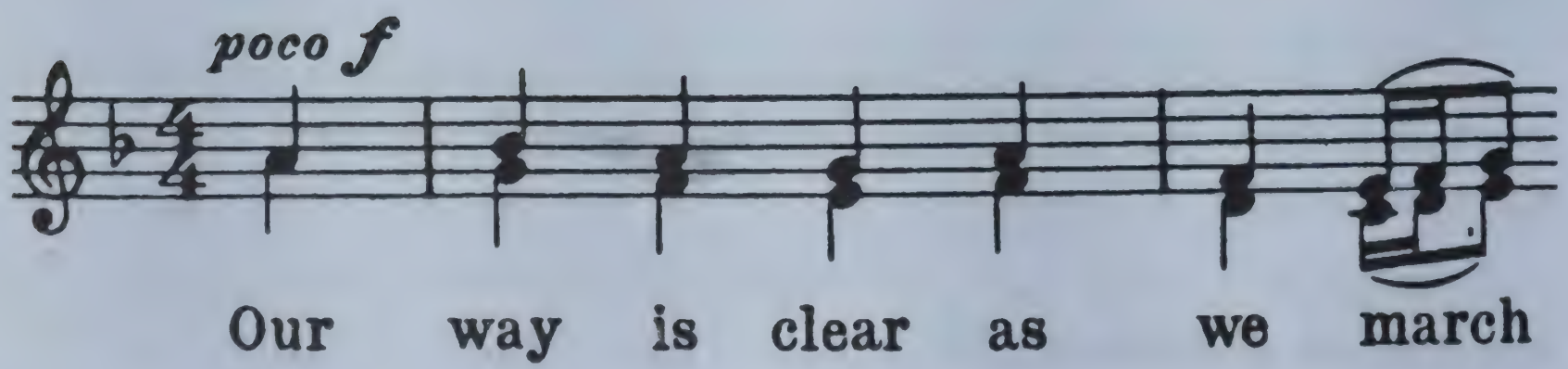
And now, a word about another lovely true story. This Christmas I shall be in California, but my thoughts will be with Guides all over the world.

Wishing you Christmas happiness in your homes, and lots of joy in doing good turns.

Olave Baden-Powell



The World Chief Guide at a Chalet window



# MESSAGE

## *A Tower and An Influence*

[The following are excerpts from a recorded extemporaneous speech delivered by the World Chief Guide before Girl Scout leaders at the GSP Auditorium last March 26, 1958, her last major speech in the course of her three-day visit of the Philippines]

This is a most wonderful and lovely occasion for me to have the opportunity of coming to share with all of you some wonderful and lovely events.

I am deeply grateful to all those who planned and organized and arranged that I might come, that I might be housed, I might be fed, and what is more, that I might be entertained with what we call a lovely song and dance. A song and dance in our own colloquial English means something very special and wonderful. We say, "Oh, yes, she made a great song and dance over that."

So, I shall always feel that you have made a great song and dance over my visit. And this visit will stand out in my mind as one of the great highlights of this long six month tour that I am making in this part of the great big world. And I am so touched indeed to meet so many friends, some of whom I have seen before, in Switzerland, in America, and also a little time ago, in that little tiny overcrowded country called England."

And now I am going to tell you the other little story. I have a great friend in Great Britain and last year, she was looking rather weary and I said, 'What are you doing and why are you looking tired ?' And she said, 'Well, I am shaking hands with all my guides!'

She has 12,000 in her little county and so she was having rather a heavy time. So, I said, "Why are you doing that?" She said that she had been a Guide when she was about twelve at school and she had kept a diary. And in this diary she came upon a little mention of one day which said that "the County Commissioner came to see us all in our company today but she did not shake hands with any of us . . ." and at the bottom of the page was a little rather symbolic sentence. She was aged 12 or 13 and a Guide, and she said, "When I am a leader and a County Commissioner, I will shake hands with all my Guides..."

So, after I have finished my little talk with all of you, I am asked whether we just shake hands as we all go out of the door so that I may feel that little touch, that little personal touch with each one of you who are carrying out your tasks in such a splendid way in this country month by month and year by year, carrying it out on a high standard and with this loving goodwill in your heart for doing your task right for your own youngsters here, and each one of you adding that magic little quota to the strength and glory of the whole world fellowship which I have the privilege of leading and serving.

You who are here in your movement and read about all those other countries, and you know, from being a member of the World Association how our influence is going to some of the smaller countries, and the countries who are newer in their scouting activities.

To them you are giving your thought, your care, your influence, your examples and your prayers. As we know, on the 22nd of February every year, all that great thought goes out to cross the world to one Guide, one Girl Scout, one Eclaireus, to the Bandeirantes in Brazil, to those with different names, with the different languages scattered over the face of the earth. We are a TOWER and an INFLUENCE which is astronomical in its extent and its size.

Olave Baden-Powell

# From the World Chief Guide

What as of extra undertakings there are at this time of year, what with school holidays, visits with friends, messages to absent friends, cards to be sent out in their numbers to far distant places and every conceivable extra thing to talk of, plan and to do.

I offer my warmest thoughts to you all in these many undertakings at this special time of the year, and to each and everybody in the movement my special thoughts go out now.

I send my great congratulations to one and all the successes that have come to us during the year.

Olave Baden-Powell

# On Tour in the U.S.A

Did I tell you about my journey across the southern states of North America, which included Texas, that vast state, five times the size of England, and the largest cotton producing area in the whole world?

Everything in Texas seems to be on a massive scale, even including ideas-as is shown by this amusing story that was told me.

An Englishman staying in Texas state had done some very good turns to his host, and the Texan, in return, wanted to give him a present.

'Is there anything you would particularly like?' he asked.

The Englishman thought for a little while and then said, 'yes, I'd be very grateful for half-a-dozen golf clubs.'

His host agreed, and after a few weeks' interval came to him and said : 'I've bought those clubs. I couldn't find six, but I've got you three good ones-and one has a swimming-pool attached!'

I can't vouch for the truth of that story, but it is a good one as showing that the people of Texas have big ideas and do things on a really big scale!

But you probably know quite a lot about these places that I am visiting now, from your television and from the many films, or 'motion pictures' as they are called here, that you see.

As for me, I have been here so many times that it is like returning home when I come to stay with my girl scout friends in Dallas and Houston in Texas, in Phoenix, Arizona and the many other places where we are having meetings during this tour. Many of these friends have paid me return visits to Hampton Court when they come to Europe during the summer months.

And I hope it will be fine on Thinking Day, When I shall be thinking of you all-in countries all over the world.

Olave Baden-Powell

# Last Message

Dear guides, scouts, cubs and brownies and all their leaders and friends.

I shall have left this world when you receive this message, which I leave to express my thanks for all the kindnesses and the affection shown to me, and to say how greatly I have rejoiced over the way in which you have all carried out your share in the work of the movement that my beloved husband invented, for the advancement of boys and girls of all countries, years ago.

I have a firm belief in Almighty God and in the life in the world to come, when he and I will be reunited; and together we shall watch over you who have been enrolled as members of this world family, and go on caring for your progress and your well-being.

I trust that you will continue fully to use the system of work and play that our movement provides, keeping up the fun and the friendships made at your meetings and in camps, abiding by the promise and upholding the laws that you undertook to live by when you joined up.

In that way you will not only advance yourself in body, mind and spirit, but you will affect those around you, in doing what is honourable and right and wise, and in giving out kindness of thought and action, thus striving against all ills and helping to make the world a happier and a better place in which to live.

I trust that you will be successful in all your tasks, and may God be with you all in the coming years.

Olave Baden-Powell

**Recorded :**

12th November, 1973

## Chapter 11

# THINKING DAY

*The World Chief Guide*

Thoughts take wings, and mine go flying off north, south, east and west, and I only hope that their waves may bring to you encouragement and a new stimulus and feeling of participation in this great thing that we all do and believe in and care about together.

Though there are sad and depressing things in the world today we, for our part, may be truly thankful that in our Movement we are encouraging, and sharing in, things that are happy, healthful, hopeful and helpful, to the fullest extent. My thoughts and good wishes are with you wherever you may be, and also my loving thanks for messages from many people and places that come to me from a far at this special THINKING DAY time of the year.

Olave Baden-Powell

# *The Chief Guide's Greeting*

How I do sympathize with writers for newspapers and magazines when some big national event is coming on, or when, year after year, we come to a special annual happening, an outstanding day, about which writers have written and written and written repeatedly over and over and over again!

There is a saying that 'there is nothing new under the sun' and yet something new is expected from their pens, describing it and telling us all about it.

But for CHRISTMAS nothing new is needed!

It can be the same always, and always will be.

The spirit of Christmas, with the love and goodwill that flow out from heart to heart, is all part and parcel of what our Guide Sisterhood strives for and lives by!

You Guides will, I am sure, all be busy doing what you can to bring happiness to others in one way or another; and whilst you are doing that in your own kind way you will gain your own happiness and contentment too.

I wish you all the happiest Christmas possible.

Olave Baden-Powell

## *Christmas in Kenya*

In the story of my tour which I have begun to tell you in The Guide, we have only got as far as Japan, but as I am writing this on Christmas Day in Kenya, I am breaking off to tell you a little about this lovely place.

I have spent Christmas in very many different parts of the world - including several Christmases in Kenya in the past - but wherever I am, my thoughts go back to all of you in Great Britain. In my mind's eye, I can see you having your lovely family parties, your turkeys, plum-puddings, crackers and parcels, with frost and perhaps snow outside and icy winds, and the bells joyously ringing you to Church. You have done, or are doing, those special Christmas good turns, and are feeling all the happier because of it.

And here we are in Kenya, doing many of those same things and eating our turkey and pudding just like you, but in blazing hot glorious sunshine, with masses of purple bougainvilaea and scarlet hibiscus, Barberton daisies and roses blooming in the garden, and lilac-blue jacaranda framed against a dazzling blue sky.

Looking out over the rolling bush-clad mountain sides, I can see my niece's cattle roaming and grazing - for I am staying on her farm - and eighty miles away the gleaming expanse of the Lake - Victoria Nyanza - as big as, or even slightly bigger, I believe, than Scotland. It is all so peaceful and lovely.

This sketch by the Founder shows the original Tree tops Hotel, about 100 miles from Nairobi, Kenya, where he and the Chief Guide spent happy times watching the wild life.

Treetops was since burnt down and rebuilt. Princess Elizabeth was staying here when she became queen in 1953.

Another Sketch
by the
Founder done from
Treetops

We have had several friends to see us and I am picking up the threads of all the other times when I have lived here, or been here on visits, during the past twenty-eight years. Yes, Kenya is truly a lovely land and certainly a second home to me.

Now, though the day will be well past when you read this, I want to wish each one of you a very happy New Year, and also to thank you, those of you who have sent thoughts and greetings to me from far away. It is difficult, when flying from place to place, to write individual thanks letters for cards and messages, so this is my way of saying 'THANK YOU GUIDES' for your much appreciated thoughts.

Olave Baden-Powell

## Chapter 12

# THE CHIEF GUIDE'S LETTER

*– The Rugged Dozen*

Your Founder had some very good motto, which he used to pass on to the Scouts and Guides, because he had found them so useful in his own life. One of them was this :

First plan your work, then work your plan. You see, so many people are apt to begin at the wrong end. They try to do a piece of work before they have really thought and planned each step, and then they are disheartened when things don't go the way they want and expect.

Whatever project you have on hand, whether arranging a camp for your patrol, a party, a Brownie programme - or merely a day's meal for your family - you will find that it pays to work it all out with pencil and paper and thinking cap before you get down to the actual 'doing'. It will save time in the end, because it will prevent time being wasted while you are wondering - or even arguing - about what to do next.

I had a grand letter just before I sailed for Canada [in fact it was more than a letter, it was almost a book!] describing a plan made by some Girl Scouts in America, and telling how they carried it out to success.

These girls formed themselves into an 'International Friendship' Troop with the aim of making friends in many countries, visiting them and getting to know them personally. It sounds quite a big idea for ordinary girls who have no spare money for traveling; but they made up their minds to do it, and worked out their plan of how's, when's, and where's.

Before you go visiting your friends it is quite a good idea to have some friends to visit! So, they started to make friends by letter, each of the twelve girls starting up a correspondence with a girl in another country - through their respective Headquarters; and while they were thus making friends and paving the way for their visits they also set about getting the money to pay for it all.

[*From the Founder's Sketchbook*]

**The initiation of the Chief Guide as an Indian, with the name Emonis-Ake [Otter Woman], Rocky Mountains in the distance**

This was done in the proper Scout and Guide way - not by begging or asking for money, but by earning it by their own work. Each girl thought of something to do and it is quite astonishing to read of the many and varied ways they thought of for doing this-baby-sitting. 'mothers-keeping', egg and flower raising and selling, making and selling jelly doughnuts and candy, embroidery and crochet work, wastepaper collecting, typing for shops and offices, and making endless useful things to sell.

For THREE WHOLE YEARS they worked away at their fund earning and letter exchanging; and at the same time they practised a lot of camping and living in the open, and doing long hikes, for they knew that they would not be able to travel luxuriously.

Geography may seem a very dull subject at school, but it becomes a really exciting one when you are planning to travel, and the 'Rugged Dozen', as these girls called themselves, spent a great deal of time pouring over maps, planning and learning their route, reckoning the cost of tickets, studying the different currencies, finding out the best methods of getting from place to place, and, above all, learning from books the manners, customs, and languages of the countries which they meant to visit.

They got an immense amount of fun out of it all during those three years, and while they were having their fun they were - almost without knowing it - imbibing knowledge and learning that would be useful to them all their lives.

At last the preparations and plans were completed. Now they were ready to 'work their plan' and the great day came when they sailed away from Hoboken, New Jersey, on the first stage of their journey, which brought them to London, with all its wonderful places to see, to historic old Hampton Court - where I was able to welcome them - and to Stratford-on-Avon. Then on to France; Paris, Versailles, Strasbourg, Ribbeauville; to Switzerland; Basle, Berne, Adelboden [Our Chalet], Geneva; thence to Germany, Austria, and Holland [where they explored a windmill!] and so back home.

At each place they met their 'link' - the friend with whom one of them had been corresponding, who looked after them, and arranged for them to stay - or camp - in the neighbourhood.

And what numbers of friends these girls have made, friends with whom they will still keep in touch and exchange news through the years to come.

Olave Baden-Powell

1973 - Olave presents her newly published autobiography 'Window on my Heart' to Ann Parker-Bowles CBE, Chief Commissioner

# The Chief Guide's Letter - CENTENARY YEAR

This Centenary Year is indeed a very great 'splash' and the ripples thrown off by it, will have extended much farther even than we could have thought possible. Indeed, I think it will be years before our Movement ceases to feel the effects of the splash - if ever.

Every day my post-bag brings me fresh indications of this. Here a Guide Company or Scout Troop has been revived; there a number of 'ex' members have come hurtling back into the Movement, stirred and spurred by some Centenary talk or broadcast; and everyone is busy remembering the origins and reasons for this great game of ours, and trying to carry out their Law, their Promise, their good turns, better, than they have ever done before.

I love to share with you some of the letters my daily post brings me, coming as they do from so many odd corners of the globe.

'Can you imagine' - writes one Guider - 'setting out for your Company meeting in a canoe over a glorious coral sea, with myriads of fish flashing past the canoe as it glides over the smooth surface of the water, glorious colours in both sea and sky, and brilliant sunshine to make the colours even more brilliant? Then, to return after dark across the same water, this time with "fire on your paddle" [millions of phosphorous fish trail like a ribbon of fire ~~on~~ at the end of the paddle] and still one can see far down into the depths of the sea by the brilliance of the moonlight . . . to be met on the shore by dozens of eager little black children just clamouring to get to the canoe and pull it ashore and to race ahead of you to their Faria, which is their meeting-house; an experience I shall never get tired of . . . These people have taken to the Great Game with such enthusiasm, and I feel sure are going to make their mark in the Guiding and Scouting world.'

That letter comes from the New Hebrides, a remote group of islands set in a most beautiful part of the Pacific Ocean. Isn't it grand to think of those faraway Guides carrying out their Guiding, just as you are doing, but in those very different surroundings!

Swaziland, a part of Africa where our Founder carried out scouting in those far-off days when he was soldiering, has been keeping the Centenary with us, and one of the Guiders there writes to tell me about it:-

'We all lit our candles and lamps through the night. I had a number of African Guides to the house and we listened to you, as did others who had the opportunity of being near the wireless . . . Here are some "Good Turns" reports

sent in by the Captains: "Our Guides collected firewood for a sick person who had no one to collect it . . . One Guide carried a water pot of a strange woman from the well to her home after greeting her . . . One Guide met a strange person who split the mangoes she was carrying, so this Guide collected the mangoes and carried them to her destination." And then from Kenya comes yet another description of the ceremony at Nyeri on Thinking Day :

*The World Chief Guide's last meeting with members of the World Committee at Olave House in 1977*

'What an impressive sight it was, and the wonderful friendship and joy there was at the Camp and Rally . . . It was such an impressive sight that it was almost too much for me, to see all those young boys and girls of so many nationalities marching down the hill to that ground just outside the cemetery with one thought in their minds, to do homage to so great a man, and one who was so loved. It was good, too, to see the older Commissioners who really had known their Founder . . . Our thoughts were with you as well, knowing that you are carrying on this wonderful Movement in all ways as he would wish.'

Just three letters - out of so many that have brought me so much joy and such hope for the future of the Movement in the hands of you Guides of today - and leaders of tomorrow.

Olave Baden-Powell

## *Visiting Guide Houses with the Chief Guide*
## *England - Pax Hill, December 17, 1954*

I told you, last week, how I 'landed' back in England after an imaginary trip out to Australia, and now I can tell you about a former 'Guide House' of a rather different kind from those that I have been describing in these talks - different because it no longer actually belongs to us, but similar because many Guiders and Guides have been there and enjoyed it, and gained something from it.

One is apt to forget how the years slip by, and that many of you who read this were either not born at all or were babies in arms when the Founder and I were living in our house at Pax Hill, Bentley.

We went to live there in 1918, just at the end of the First World War - and we lived there for 20 years. Many of the things that you Guides learn about today were put into writing for you by the Founder while he was living in that house.

Pax Hill is in the country, near the Hampshire-Surrey border. We called it Pax Hill because we found it and bought it just when the Armistice was signed in 1918, because it was going to be just the peaceful place in which to work and live, and it is on a hill overlooking a lovely part of the country. It has spacious lawns and a long drive where Scouts and Guides used to come and camp; and during those 20 years I suppose there was not a country in the world from which we did not have Scout and Guide visitors - your ancestors, as it were! They came and had a meal with us, or stayed with us for a night or two, or camped with us, and during those years the Scout and Guide spirit settled on that house and gave it a kind of atmosphere which I feel sure it will never loose.

Everyone who came there was happy and busy and active; and something of this got sewn up into the house and garden and stayed there. The Guides sensed it when, later on, they had it for a Domestic Training School, after I was no longer able to live there myself; and it was a sad day when they, too, had to give it up. And for some time it languished, empty and unused - going through a bad patch in its life like some people do.

But now that phase has gone by and I rejoice to tell you something very happy about Pax Hill. After going through its sad time, and running the risk of even being pulled down, it is again occupied, active, happy and busy. Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth Adams, who have come to live there with their family, are going to make of Pax a place where people from other lands will once more be welcomed. They are opening it to students from all parts of the world who want to study English, music, and other things. They have made the house lovely inside again and are working hard to get the garden into order. They also take English students who want to study music, literature, and foreign languages. So, if you are one of the lucky ones whose parents can afford 'further education' for you on leaving school, it would be worth while to find out just what is happening in this, one of the first 'Guide Houses' that ever was.

I went there myself lately and was charmed, cheered, and thrilled with all that I saw, I met students from Haiti, France and England, working in this dear house in this lovely bit of England and imbibing - one hopes - a little bit of Scout and Guide spirit as well as everything else. May Pax again be a real link in world friendship, on which we, as Guides, are so keen

Olave Baden-Powell

## THE CHIEF GUIDE'S LETTER

### *A Strange Coincidence*

I wish I had time and space to describe for you all the lovely Centenary doings in which I am being privileged to take part. But I expect most of you are having at least some experience of the same sort at one or other of the big gatherings, and are being stirred and enthused afresh by what you have seen and shared in.

North and South London and the Home countries, Wales and Scotland and the Midlands, wherever I go, the spirit is the same, though at each Rally I see some original bit of pageantry or some different way of doing the same thing, which is all the most interesting and most inspiring, as showing that Guiding is never content with standing still or with merely copying others but is still full of that spirit of adventure and inventiveness - just as the Founder meant it to be.

The Hampshire Rally at Southampton on 1st June was just such a one, with its banks of cheery Guides, its masque and lovely dancing, its jolly camp-fire, and its wonderful collection of 'shillings' for the great secret plan. It had all been beautifully rehearsed and carried out, but there was, for me, one special unrehearsed incident that was very unexpected and very romantic.

During my talk to the Guides, I had seen telling them of the happy memories Southampton holds for me. It was there, 45 years ago now, that I first met the Founder - whose Centenary we are now keeping.

I told them how, when my father and I had arrived at the Docks on a cold, grey January morning, we had seen a group of Boy Scouts drawn up on the quay evidently waiting for something.

Then the 'something' happened. Along came the boat-train and with it the Chief Scout, starting off on a world tour of Scouts in the very ship in which we were travelling. These Scouts had come to see and be seen by him and to wish him 'Bon Voyage'.

In those days Scouts in uniform were rather unusual party of the landscape, as the Movement was still fairly new, and the other passengers were all watching with interest when the Chief came along and inspected the boys. Then he presented a medal to one of the Scouts - a Life-Saving award. He asked the Scout what he had been doing to earn it and the boy said, 'Saving a policeman. Sir', which amused and interested the lookers-on, as he was not a very large boy. After the inspection we went on board the Arcadian and there I was introduced to the Chief Scout - and the end of the story you know: we were married the same year.

Well, I was telling the Guides all about this and other reasons why I was glad to be in Southampton with them; and at the end of my talk a man who had been one of the lookers-on at the Rally walked on to the ground and told me that he was the very Scout who had saved the policeman - so I saw him again after more than 45 years!

Olave Baden-Powell

# THE CHIEF GUIDE'S LETTER

*To Okinawa and Taiwan*

What do you feel like, I wonder, when you are travelling in a train or bus to take part in a competition, going to an important 'audition' in the hope of being chosen to do some singing or acting in a show, or even - as so many of you do - when you are going up for your Duke of Edinburgh's Award or when you have been chosen as a candidate for some exciting Guide trip abroad - and so on ?

Don't you feel all keyed up and strung up ? With the excitement of anticipation over it all, there is also a feeling of trepidation, wondering who is going to ask you some questions, and/or what is going to be expected of you.

I know something of what you feel because it happens to me all the time, on all my tours, and at all my stopping places! One starts off on a journey and may enjoy it for minutes or even hours and then, just before landing, there comes that feeling of wondering what is in store and even a slight sense of anxiety - however sure you are of yourself! It is said that famous actresses and singers are always nervous - and that is a good thing as then they have to pull themselves together and do their best.

## *Living Up to Our Motto*

So, you and I are in the same boat that way - you having your exciting times of showing what you are made of, and I on my part having to Be Prepared to face newspaper reporters and photographers, as well as the ceremonious welcomes that so often are planned when I land anywhere as your Chief.

I never feel, on these occasions, that I am me. I am your emissary, your spokesman, your representative - and as such I have to try and uphold your good name and say and do what you would want and expect of me. I had expected my next flight, after Korea, to be a very peaceful and easy trip - just sitting in the plane all day with time to think and read and be quiet, well away up in the skies.

Not a bit of it!

## *Back in Japan Again!*

We had to land back in Japan, where I had such a happy time the week before, and quite unexpectedly I found that these kind Japanese Girl Scout 'Chiefs' were there to welcome us back again. So, we had a jolly little hour's chat there at the Airport, with jets and all manner of aircraft sizzling and backfiring and bursting themselves with violent explosive noises, bangs and roarings - as an accompaniment to our talks!

Off we go again and within a few hours comes the announcement by the Air Hostess that we are to fasten our seat belts as we are just going to land at Okinawa, and there is the island below us as we come diving down from the clouds.

As the door of the aircraft is opened, word comes that I am to come quickly as there is only half an hour's stop and they are awaiting

me. My goodness, there were bunches of them - all waiting in long lines with smiling, cheery faces and eager, outstretched hands, American Girl Scouts on the one hand and Okinawa Girl Scouts on the other.

During the terrible war years, this island was the scene of grievous happenings, and it is now a 'Base' for the United States Army and Air Force. They have built fine buildings and houses and the Girl Scouts have opened up Troops for the Okinawan girls to join - helping them along with their Scouting so that they feel linked up with all the rest of us. They were such a cheery lot, and we just had time for lots of hand-shakings, photographs and stimulating, friendly greetings - all squeezed into the short thirty minutes' stop.

## *A Band to Welcome Me*

That was not the end of that day by any manner of means, for the same story was repeated a few hours later on the huge island of Taiwan [which used to be called Formosa], and here the Boy Scouts turned out in equal force with the Girl Scouts - all sorts and sizes and nationalities - and gave me one of the gayest and perhaps the noisiest welcomes of my life, with a band and crowds of lookers - on who had been drawn into the building by seeing all those uniformed boys and girls assembling there. Everybody talked at the tops of their voices all the time to keep level with the noise of the aircraft outside.

And so the day ended with our arrival in Hong-Kong - all more sedate and dignified - and it was good indeed to be back amongst those kind Guiders whom I had last met there in 1958 on my way home from Australia.

Olave Baden-Powell

## THE CHIEF GUIDE'S LETTER

*On to Nyasaland*

After my time in the Rhodesias, I went on to Nyasaland, where a 'Beaver' plane had been chartered to fly me round to see as many Guide centres as possible in a very limited number of days.

Nyasaland is now part of the Federation of Rhodesia and Nyasaland, and a very important part, with its immense like - 350 miles long and 55 miles across at its widest point. It is a grand place for holiday making, for boating, fishing, swimming, exploring, and - of course - for Scouting and Guiding. Here again one came across the trail of the great David Livingstone; Blantyre, the commercial capital of Nyasaland, takes its name from the Scottish village where he was born; and at Living-stonia is the great Mission Station of the Church of Scotland.

When my plane arrived at Lilongwe, at the south of Lake Nyasa, there was Mrs. Watson, the Guide Commissioner, who had come from Living-stonia to welcome me and to travel with me round her domain. At Karonga, in the very north of Nyasaland, we found nearly 300 Scouts, Guides, and Brownies assembled, and we had a very lovely Rally there, with good displays and great enthusiasm.

And so on to Mzuzu and Mzimba, Lilongwe and Mlanje, Limbe and Zomba - fascinating names, which to you are, alas, just names, but which to me are peopled with Guides and Scouts and Cubs and Brownies, all making me so welcome and giving of their best in the way of displays and singing and lovely friendly handshakes - days and hours which I shall never forget.

*The Chief Guide in Kano,*
*Northen Nigeria, during her recent tour*

The day I had planned to go to Zomba, it had been impossible to get there because of bad weather, which was very disappointing both to me and for my kind hosts there. But luckily, I was able to make good this loss when, on my last day there, a Rally was hastily arranged at the Zomba Club, and it was a grand Rally, just proving over again how everyone, Commissioners, Guiders, Guides, Brownies and all, are living up to their motto of 'Being Prepared' not only, as the Founder used to say, for what is probable but also for what is just possible. At very short notice, they put on a really excellent show, which will live for long in my memory.

Sometimes, you know, in our home Guiding, we tend to be daunted by distances; and it is always most inspiring to me to find, in faraway places, that distance is no object, or is actually an object that is overcome by keenness. To the Rally at Mzuzu, where Guiding is rather new and small, some of the children had come 40 miles by bus, lorry, and on foot, to join in with us; and at Limbe some Guides had WALKED FIFTEEN MILES to reach the bus that would bring them the rest of the way!

At Lilongwe, we came across both Scouts and Guides who had travelled over 200 miles to be there! How's that for enthusiasm and stickability?

Yes, I think Nyasaland will remember our Centenary year, and will have been very much 'with us' on 22nd February. Guiding is going ahead steadily there, in good hands, and with the right kind of enthusiasm. Each year sees an increase in numbers - when I was there in 1950, there were about 1,100 Guides; today there are over 2,000, and they have acquired their own permanent camp-site at Dedza, which is going to be a tremendous asset to the Movement. Good for them!

Olave Baden-Powell

## THE CHIEF GUIDE'S LETTER

*Be Prepared*

Be Prepared - not only for what is probable but for what is possible, too; was a motto of our Founder.

How did this motto, 'Be Prepared', come to be ours in the Girl Guides?

It was like this.

In South Africa, in the year 1902, a bunch of men drawn from Canada, Great Britain and South Africa itself decided that it would be nice to have for this newly-formed South African Constabulary the motto, 'Be Prepared', as being symbolic to them of the task that would be theirs in bringing safety and comfort and well-being to the people and the country that they were called upon to serve.

**Meeting Brownies at Leicester - 1939**

The decision was also a gesture of affection and admiration for their leader, whose name was Baden Powell, and whose initials were thus engraved on their minds.

Five years later, this motto was to become the one to which thousands and thousands of young people would turn, and one which they would try to uphold in their lives.

I, for one, know that throughout my Guide life, I have always had it in the background of my mind, helping me to be ready - as far as was in any way possible - to face problems and difficulties, events and experiences, both grave and gay. I have tried to live up to it - and I am sure you do, too.

But never - no, never - did I expect to have to Be Prepared for quite such a sudden and serious moment as a particularly urgent major operation to be done suddenly and quickly during my one month's period of holiday in the midst of a busy tour of Australia.

But still less - far, less - was I prepared for the overwhelming avalanche of goodwill and 'get-well-quick' that has been poured out to me from far and near; from old and young alike; from all my dear, loving members of the Guides and Scouts, and even from strangers who have been my friends without my knowing it.

Mercifully, everything has gone very well and I am thankful beyond words that a speedy and complete recovery has put me on my feet again to continue my tour.

As I go on my way I shall be leaving and sending waves of deepest gratitude, not only to all those who have cared for me and looked after me so well but for all those generous friends and well-wishers who have sent me their loving thoughts and messages through the post and who have prayed for me.

In thanking God for my recovery I thank all of these friends, too, for their share in it.

And now when these three months are past I shall be seeing some of you again in my homeland, and I do hope that all the activities of 1958 are going to be all the better and all the happier and all the more successful as a result of your having celebrated Centenary Year in so lovely a way.

Olave Baden-Powell

*Where the Trefoil Goes*
*by Vera Armstrong*

# THE WORLD CHIEF GUIDE

Another problem confronted Wendy in Centenary Year when she saw for the first time both our Chief Guide, Lady Baden Powell and the Chief Scout, Lord Rowallan.

'Why', she asked, 'why is Lady Baden Powell Chief Guide of the World, but Lord Rowallan Chief Scout of the British Common Wealth and Empire ?'

That is a very interesting question - and here is the answer.

The First Lord Baden Powell was Founder of the Boy Scout and Girl Guide Movement, wasn't he ? And by virtue of that he was unanimously elected Chief Scout of all the World in 1920, when there was an International Jamboree of Boy Scouts held at Olympia in London. This position he held until his death in 1941. I think it was generally agreed that after this, no one man of any one nation could fill that position, but each country should have its own Chief Scout.

Lady Baden Powell, being the Chief Scout's wife, and having taken a tremendous interest in Guiding after her marriage, and having devoted an enormous amount of hard work to it, was first elected Chief Guide in 1917; then at a World Conference at Fox-lease in 1930, she was elected World Chief Guide. In each country there is either a Chief Guide or a Chief Commissioner, but to the world, Lady Baden Powell is the Chief Guide. That is why she spends so much of her time travelling all over the earth, visiting Guides in countries both great and small. Millions of miles she must have travelled, by sea, air, rail and road. There is hardly a country - scarcely a small island - where there are Guides that she has not been to, and in each one she is loved and deeply respected. She has been described as 'the most travelled woman in the world' and I believe this is perfectly true.

Born in Chesterfield, Derbyshire in 1889, Olave St. Clair Soames met and married Robert Baden Powell, hero of Mafeking, Founder of the Boy Scout Movement and the Girl Guide and Girl Scout Movement, in 1912. They had three children: Peter, born in 1913; Heather, born in 1915; and Betty, born in 1917.

Lady Baden Powell was enrolled as a Guide in 1916; her first Guide appointment was as County Commissioner for England. In 1917, she was made Chief Guide, and from then on her world travels really began.

She accompanied the Chief Scout wherever he went, seeing Scouts and Guides, encouraging and inspiring all with whom she came into contact. Her amazing flair for remembering faces, remembering where people come from and the occasion on which she has previously met them, has stood her in good stead throughout the long years of her indefeatable Guide service. It is true to say that the Chief Guide never forgets.

Since, her husband's death in 1941, she has carried on his work. Her energy is unfailing, her zeal and enthusiasm unflagging. In Centenary Year, she was untiring and utterly devoted to her duty in attending so far as each crowded day permitted every possible Rally or other event held in honour of her beloved husband's memory. To mention but a few, she visited in a fortnight the World Camp in Switzerland, the World Camp at Windsor, and the Boy Scouts' Jamboree at Sutton Coldfield. Her programme would seem a superhuman one to the ordinary person; to the Chief Guide, it is her life, and she takes it in her stride. In the same great-hearted way, she will address an audience of grown ups in the morning at a Civic Function; a vast rally of Guides in the afternoon; an important Scout Meeting in the early evening; and be the after-dinner speaker at some function in the evening where Guiding and Scouting and the Youth of the World is the theme.

Baden Powell gave as his last message to the Guides of the World : 'Your business in life is to be happy, and make others happy . . .' No one carries out that wish more fully than his own wife, our beloved Chief Guide. She gives out volumes of happiness to others wherever she goes.

## *More Travels with the Chief Guide*

### *21 — All Among the Redwoods*

Years ago, when we were living at Pax Hill, a very famous American Scout, Major Burnham, sent us a Redwood Burl. This was a chunk of reddish-coloured wood and quite harmless looking, but he told us that if we kept it in water something would happen and it did! After, watching it curiously some weeks we saw one day tiny little green sprouts appearing at the sides of the block, like pygmy trees and these were the tiny beginnings of great giant redwood trees.

It was just wonderful that week, we came down the coast of Oregon into California through the forest of giant redwoods, which grow in profusion here and no where else in the world. They are too wonderful for description and we just gazed and gasped as we went driving along, with hundreds and thousands of them towering up into the sky above us.

Have you ever driven through a tree ? Well, believe it or not, we drove wholly right through one of these redwoods. This tree, 315 feet tall, has a diameter of 21 feet at the base and an arch through which traffic can pass.

Another giant redwood, believed to be about 4,000 years old, has a house actually in the bottom of its trunk! This house is 50 feet high and 21 by 27 feet in size inside. So, you see, these trees make even our giant forest oaks and our Normal eyes look rather small!

There are over a hundred miles of these redwood giants on what is known as the Redwood Highway.

The trees are used for building, and thousands of them are cut down each year, and as we drove along, we met truck after truck carrying their huge loads. One truck can carry only a very small bit of one tree, so huge and wide are they.

The trucks, when going fully loaded from the forest, have trailers - lots of them - hitched on behind, thus forming a sort of young train going along the road; but when they are going to the forest to collect their load, they pick up the trailers and carry them 'piggy-back' as they call it - which looks very funny but saves petrol and road-space. From the great size of the trunk, and the even grain of the red cedar-like wood, the redwood is indeed a valuable tree for the builder, the farmer, and the carpenter; it splits readily and evenly and planes and polishes well. The redwood's official name is the 'Sequoia Sempervivens' and it is said to be the link between the firs and the cypresses - evergreen and ever lovely.

What wonders of Nature I have seen on this journey, but what wonders of Nature you, too, can see on any ordinary Saturday afternoon hike in England. It is the Seeing Eye that matters, isn't it ? Some people seem to go through the world without noticing very much - but then they are not Guides or Scouts!

And now, I am sitting out in hot sunshine at San Rafael, a few miles from San Francisco where the big Girl Scout Convention is to be held. I am looking from a dear little garden on to the inland sea between the actual sea and San Francisco - near the Golden Gate Bridge. A few hundred Girl Scouts will be meeting me here this afternoon and then tomorrow I shall be in Frisco itself.

Olave Baden-Powell

## Chapter 13
## NYERI DAY

At midnight of June 25, 1977 Lady Baden Powell, our World Chief Guide joined the SUPREME SCOUT to render service for eternity.

Physically, she's gone. But she left behind her lasting links of friendship among the members of her scout and guide family throughout the world. Her words of wisdom and inspiring messages shall forever remain in our hearts as well handed down to generations to keep and uphold.

Olave, Lady Baden Powell, World Chief Guide died peacefully in her sleep. Her ashes were flown to Kenya and placed in the little cemetery of Nyeri. These are two persons who together had created and sustained the Guiding and Scouting Movements, were once again united in peace.

Nyeri [Kenya] day is a Thinking Day of a unique sort. It is an occasion for thought, spiritual commitment and re-dedication. An occasion to review the events of the past triennium and to look towards the next and ponder on 'our vision of tomorrow's world'. She left as a legacy to future generations.

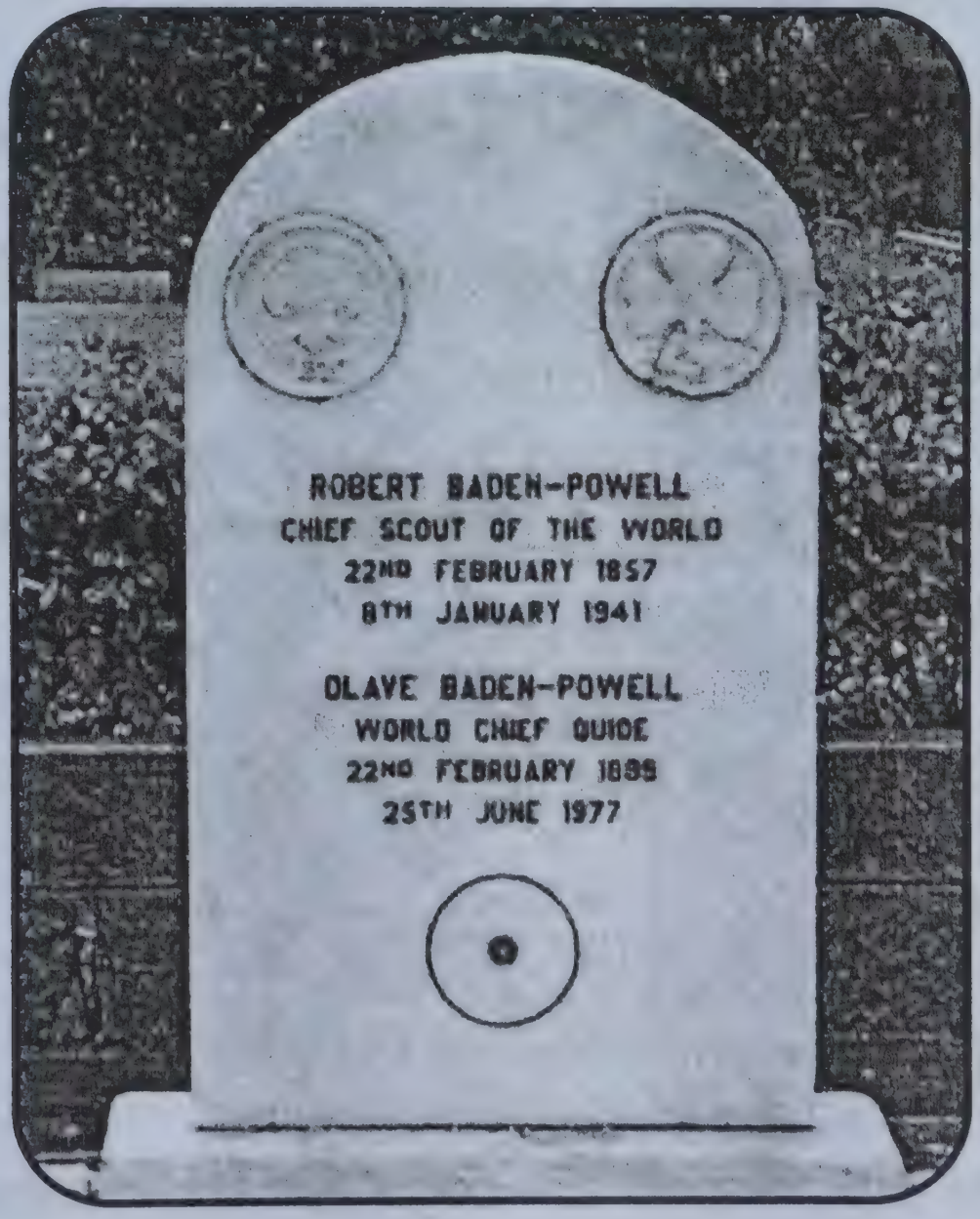
During her 88 years, the World Chief Guide lived a full life i.e., 88 years 4 months and 4 days. Her efforts for the movement will not be forgotten. Millions mourned throughout the world, united in grief at the loss of Olave Lady Baden Powell, our World Chief Guide.

NYERI, JULY 1987

*Centenary of the Birth of the* *World Chief Guide, 1989*

KARIBUNI KENYA

On 2nd August 1987, ~~the~~ ten years after the death of the World Chief Guide, the 26th World Conference has the opportunity to visit the church and churchyard at Nyeri where Lord and Lady Baden-Powell are buried and to visit their home at Paxtu. It is almost a hundred years since Olave Soames, the lady who was to become a mother-figure to millions, was born. Her centenary, in 1989, will be celebrated all over the world by those who knew her and by those who are too young to have known her, but who, nevertheless, are able to take part in her great game of Guiding that she left as a legacy to future generations.



# CENTENARY PROGRAMMES

- Departure from Egerton University.
- Arrival at paxtu, the ceremonial open space, nyeri.
- Welcome from local authorities.
- Ceremony of spiritual commitment and re-dedication.
- Reading of relevant quotations from the Founder and World Chief Guide.
- Tree Planting by World Committee Chairman.
- Formation of Solidarity Chain.
- Rededication through the renewal of the Promise.
- Laying of a wreath by the World Conference and World Committee Chairman.
- Laying of a flower on the grave by each member organisation.
- Procession past the grave-side to Nyeri Church.
- Visit to Paxtu
- Unveiling of Commemorative Plaque.
- Departure from Paxtu for Edgerton University.

# Chapter 14

## The Olave Award

This is an international award to honour the memory of the World Chief Guide and to keep alive her belief in the spirit of services.

To serve, to help, to lend a hand, has become a pattern of life. From the early stage Bulbuls/Brownies are initiated in lending a hand, in helping within their possibilities. This commitment develops and becomes more serious and more important, as the Girl grows older and it is with the help, encouragement, and direction of the leaders, they channel their wealth of good-will to help and serve others.

The Olave Award is for outstanding service to the community either in one's own country or in another country and meeting the needs of the people by sustained effort or outstanding achievement of a group [individual heroism or technical skill is not considered] during the past year. The service should be the result of spontaneous effort.

The Olave Award is made to a group of [Six or Pack, Patrol/Company] of Brownies, Girl Guides/Girl Scouts, Senior Guides and Rangers.

The Olave Award is judged by a panel of 5 judges, appointed by the world committee, to represent the WAGGGS Regional groups.

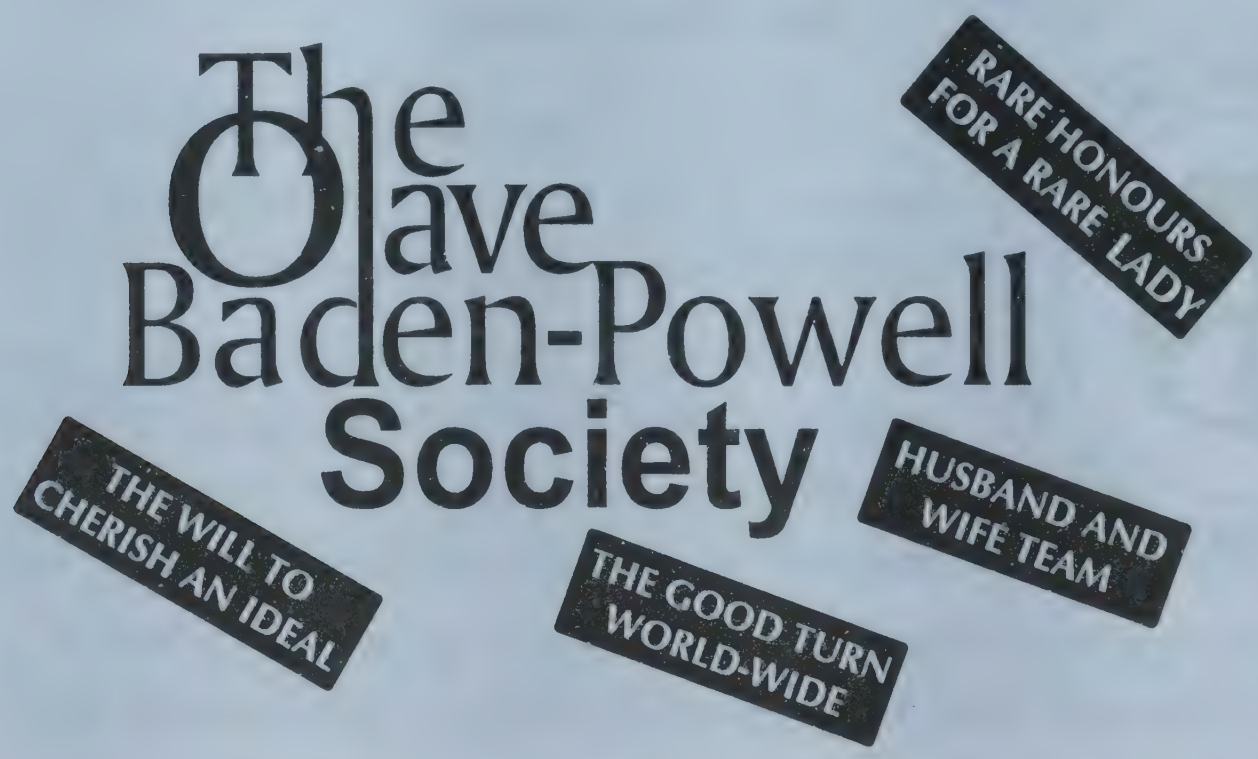
The Olave Award is in the form of a badge presented to each unit member involved in winning the Award and Certificate presented to the winning group.

One entry only from each National Organization is to be sent, which must reach the world Bureau before 31st March.

Application is to be made by a Commissioner on behalf of the group and without its knowledge and to be sent to the World Bureau through the usual channels of the National Organisation, supported by recommendations of outside agencies.

Winner of the first Olave Award announced at the 24th World Conference in France - Award instituted by World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts to keep alive, Olave's belief in the Spirit of Service and for any pack, company or unit which gives outstanding service in community with no thought of recognition, over a substantial period of time.

## Chapter 15


The Olave Baden-Powell Society
RARE HONOURS FOR A RARE LADY
HUSBAND AND WIFE TEAM
THE GOOD TURN WORLD-WIDE
THE WILL TO CHERISH AN IDEAL

At the 1984 conference of the World Association of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts held in the United States, it was resolved that a new major organization, to be known as The Olave Baden Powell Society, be formed. Its purpose; to solicit funds from the friends and admirers of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting to help promote and support the advancement of this movement around the world.

The Society is now being formed and its leaders invite those devoted to the movement to become Members of the Society and to thereby enjoy the privileges of membership.

To become a Member, an individual must contribute 5,000 [British] pounds or more [or its equivalent in other currencies] to the Society. This may be done by a single payment or by instalments over a period of not more than five years.

If preferred. Memberships are also accepted through the donation of marketable securities, or through a bequest in a will. This latter, however, requires a bequest of 7,500 [British] pounds or more.

Each member will be invited to a special ceremony conducted by a royal personage to receive the membership certificate and insignia of the society. Further-more, each member's name will be placed on a roll of honour on display in perpetuity at Olave Centre.

The cause is meritorious.

You are invited to become a member.

## A MESSAGE FROM OUR PATRONS, HER MAJESTY QUEEN INGRID OF DENMARK AND HER ROYAL HIGHNESS PRINCESS BENEDIKTE OF DENMARK

The World Chief Guide often spoke of "the great family" of Girl Guides and Girl Scouts and the reason why THE OLAVE BADEN-POWELL SOCIETY has been formed is to support the international work of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting.

When you talk about a family, you think of its many members with different characters and ways of thinking and living. The family of WAGGGS certainly is very different in colour, religon and culture, but that is its great strength. Having eperienced guiding ourselves for quite a period of time, we know what wonderful values, challenges and pleasures it gives to all ages.

In order to promote the work of Girl Guiding and Girl Scouting World wide THE OLAVE BADEN-POWELL SOCIETY has been launched. We know there are many friends and admirers of the work being done by WAGGGS. It is therefore our hope that many people from many countries will support it with generous donations and at the same time pay tribute to the World Chief Guide by becoming members of the OLAVE BADEN-POWELL SOCIETY.

Amalienborg Palace
Copenhagen

## Chapter 16

## Olave Centre

The Olave Baden-Powell Centre for Girl Guides and Girl Scouts, Known as Olave Centre, is at 12c Lyndhurst Road (Hampstead) London Nw3 5PQ.

- The World Bureau, the secretariat of WAGGGS, moved to Olave Centre in 1984.
- A new World Centre, providing residential and training facilities, is being built on the vacant land adjacent to the World Bureau. The new centre, PAX LODGE, will replace Olave House.
- The World Bureau is in a 19th century converted house of some architectural importance. It contains office and a small conference room for meetings and seminars.
- Pax Lodge will have residential accommodation for members of the Movement and their friends on short and long term visits.
- Pax Lodge will adjoin the World Bureau and provide facilities for international trainings, seminars and conferences, giving many more Girl Guides and Girl Scouts the benefit of staying at a World Centre.
- The anticipated completion date for Pax Lodge is 1990.

- The World Chief Guide Memorial Fund, for the establishment of Olave Centre - was set up after the World Chief Guide died in 1973. She had always hoped that one day the World Bureau and the London World Centre would be together and it was decided by the 23rd World Confrence that this project should be undertaken in her memory.

- The necessary funds for the relocation of the World Bureau were raised mainly by present and former members of the Movement. Financial contributions were also made by trust, foundations, businesses and industry, some of which were donated in response to the Diamond Jubilee Appeal in 1985/86.

- Funds for the building of Pax Lodge are being raised from, and through, Member Organizations, individual donations (some through Olave Baden-Powell Society membership) and from trusts, foundations, business and industry. The proceeds from the sale of Olave House have been added to the fund.

**Baden Powell's Family Group in 1960**

# CREDITS AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT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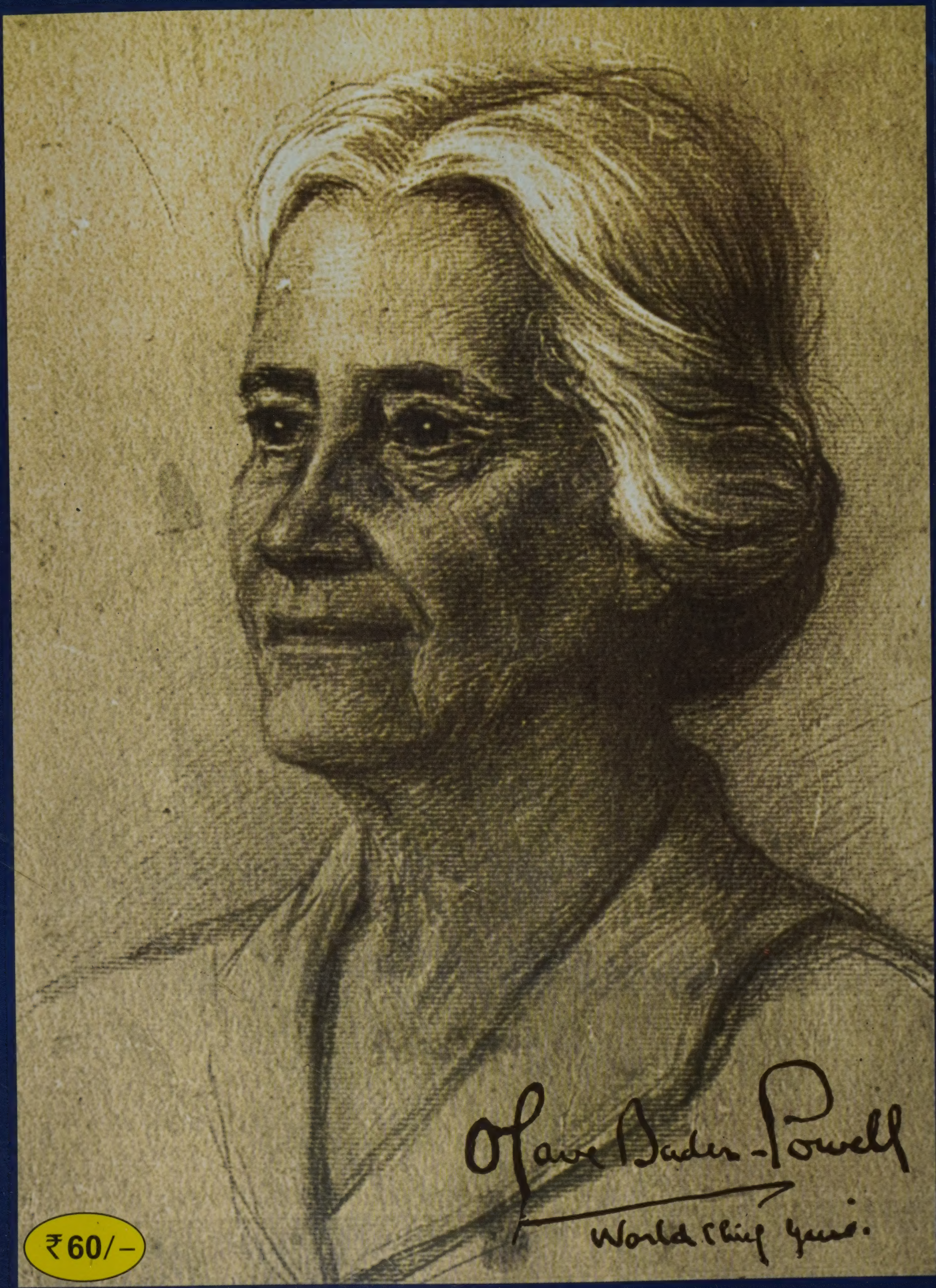
Olave Baden-Powell
World Chief Guide.

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